

Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you believe CNMI voters are now sophisticated and educated enough on land issues to act on the retention or repeal of Article 12 by 2012?

Let your voice be heard!
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to cast your vote.

INSIDE



Temp Workers

Toyota said it will hire 3,000 to 4,000 temporary workers in Japan.

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Weakened Rules

Federal regulators work with the nuclear power industry to weaken safety rules.

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Goodbye, Harry!

Daniel Radcliffe is ready to say goodbye to the boy wizard.

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House education panel to invite PSS execs anew. PAGE 3

POHAKU FAILS TO FIND SISTERS

15 FBI agents, staff leaving

» **FBI vows not to leave Luhk sisters' case behind**
» **DPS operations back to normal**



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

FBI special agent Tom Simon, center, answers questions from reporters about the status of the ongoing search for Faloma and Maleina Luhk who have been missing since May 25, while CNMI Department of Public Safety commissioner Ramon Mafnas, left, and press secretary Angel Demapan, right, look on at a news briefing yesterday afternoon. As leads on the disappearance of the two sisters have slowed down, the FBI will be sending back to Hawaii its staff who were brought in to Saipan, but the agency pointed out that it is not leaving the case behind.

Island Ventures unveils \$60M resort project

» **Pacific Entertainment Technology is 3rd bidder in mall project**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Island Ventures LLC is planning to invest almost \$60 million to build a "seven-story, five-star" hotel resort on public land in San Roque, near the former La Fiesta Mall, which it also wants to revitalize.

This is the first time that Island

Ventures revealed the amount and details of its planned investment on a public land previously leased and later abandoned by Flame Sako.

The Department of Public Lands has already issued Island Ventures a one-year temporary authorization to enter the premises and begin preliminary work, as the two parties contin-

ue to negotiate a 25-year lease agreement that will eventually need the Legislature's approval.

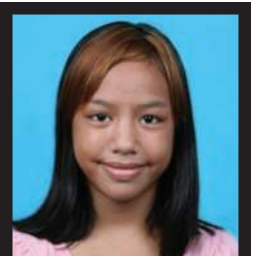
Herman P. Sablan, representative of Island Ventures in the CNMI, said they are now soliciting bids for the topographic survey.

"We are mapping out the place, we are doing a feasibility study," Sablan said. **See ISLAND on Page 4**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Four weeks later and with an overtime tab that's already half-a-million dollars, the feverish search for sisters Faloma and Maleina Luhk is winding down, leaving experts baffled as to what had happened to the two.

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Faloma Luhk



Maleina Luhk

SHEFA issues \$587K for spring scholars

» **596 checks available for pick up yesterday**

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Close to 600 checks amounting to \$587,700 in total awards for scholars of the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance program were disbursed yesterday.

SHEFA board chair Jose Ma-

fias disclosed this to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, saying the funds were approved for release by the Department of Finance on Friday pending verification by the SHEFA office.

A SHEFA staff confirmed that 596 checks were issued yesterday for spring 2011 schol-

See SHEFA on Page 4

Lawmakers: OPA must be made to release final investigation reports

» **6-month-old investigation report remains under wraps**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Some lawmakers are considering an amendment to an existing law, in hopes that the

Office of the Public Auditor could be eventually made to release its report and recommendations on completed investigations.

See LAWMAKERS on Page 4

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Local

4 CNMI resolutions passed at APIL assembly in Palau

» Benavente honored 'shark defender' by Pew Foundation

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Association of Pacific Island Legislatures adopted four resolutions sponsored by the CNMI delegation during the APIL's June 15 to 17 general assembly in Palau.

The CNMI sent 12 lawmakers and Legislative Bureau staffers to Palau for the APIL assembly, where island jurisdictions adopted resolutions sponsored by Rep. Joseph Guerrero (R-Saipan) and Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan).

Guerrero and House minor-

ity leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan), who both attended the APIL meeting, separately said these resolutions include Guerrero's APIL Resolution 30-GA-12 which supports Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan's HR 670, which conveys 3 miles of submerged lands to the CNMI.

"I'm very happy that my fellow lawmakers supported this resolution," Guerrero said.

The three other adopted resolutions were authored by Reyes. They include one that asks the U.S. government to honor its commitment to the Compact-Impact by not restricting or limit-

ing the immigration of Compact nations, and one that asks island jurisdictions to increase focus on non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and high blood pressure, as well as in reducing tobacco and alcohol use.

Another adopted resolution requests APIL jurisdictions to encourage the U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the Transportation Security Administration to assist the CNMI and its tourism industry by creating a welcoming atmosphere at all federalized ports of entry in the CNMI.

Benavente, meanwhile, received a "shark defender"

award from the Pew Foundation, for introducing a bill that bans shark finning in the CNMI. That bill became a law on Jan. 27, 2011, and inspired Guam and other islands to also pass similar bills or consider introducing legislation.

Benavente made a presentation about the CNMI's shark fin law at the APIL assembly.

Sharkwater Saipan tells the story of Kathy Pagapular's sixth grade class at San Vicente Elementary School and how a class project led to the world's second shark fin ban. The video features interviews with Kathy and

the students, as well as Rep. Benavente and Beautify CNMI's Cinta Kaipat.

"I hope this video inspires kids around the world to help save their sharks," said filmmaker Rob Stewart.

A preview of *Sharkwater Saipan* will play on KSPN 2 on World Ocean's Day on June 8 during the 6 O'Clock News.

Four resolutions sponsored by members of the CNMI delegation were introduced and passed by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures' general assembly.

Of the 12 from the CNMI who went to Palau, two are senators, six are House members, and four are from the Legislative Bureau.

US-Japan mull Marine base plans at security talks in DC

WASHINGTON (AP)—Top U.S. and Japanese officials will discuss Tuesday how to salvage costly plans to relocate a U.S. Marine air station on Okinawa that face opposition in both countries.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Secretary of Defense Robert Gates will host Japanese Foreign Minister Takeaki Matsumoto and Defense Minister Toshimi Kitazawa for security talks in Washington that will reaffirm the close ties between staunch allies but also highlight an issue that has complicated their relationship.

They are expected to announce a postponement in the planned relocation of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma that was due for completion by 2014. A senior U.S. administration official told reporters Monday that the U.S. remained committed to the plan, but there would be a readjustment in the scheduling. He did not elaborate.

The official requested anonymity as the formal announcement is expected after Tuesday's talks, that will also address North Korea's nuclear program, Afghanistan, and missile defense.

The delay has been widely anticipated as Japan's govern-

ment has failed to win local assent for the plans, formalized in a 2006 agreement with the U.S., although they are designed to reduce the U.S. military footprint on Okinawa, which hosts more than half of the 47,000 American troops in Japan. Many of the islanders resent the presence of the U.S. forces.

Under the agreement, Marine air operations would be shifted to a less crowded part of the island, where a new airfield would be built. Some 8,000 Marines would also be shifted to the U.S. Pacific territory of Guam by 2014.

Japan's previous prime minister, Yukio Hatoyama, was forced to resign last year after promising and failing to get Marines off Okinawa altogether.

An influential group of U.S. senators has also weighed in on the debate, saying the current plans are unaffordable and unworkable.

A defense spending bill approved last week by the Senate Armed Services Committee would prohibit funding for the relocation without first conducting studies into alternatives—a move likely to be welcomed by lawmakers as U.S. looks to rein in its massive budget deficit.

Japan would foot much of the multibillion dollar relocation bill.

4th of July - Independence Day

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Public Notice

In accordance with the "Open Government Act", the Public School System State Board of Education, through their Special Education State Advisory Panel (SESAP), is hereby serving notice to the general public that it will hold a meeting on Friday, June 24, 2011, 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm, at the Special Education Building 1224, Capital Hill. This meeting is open to the public; interested individuals are welcome to attend.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting, but require accessibility such as large print, sign language or interpreter, must call 237-3029/19. Several days' notice is necessary to allow organizers ample time to make necessary arrangements.

/s/
Frances Diaz
Chairwoman

/s/
Suzanne W. Lizama
Special Education Director

Chamber strongly opposes bill amending zoning law

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce “strongly opposes” Rep. Stanley Torres’ (Ind-Saipan) local bill seeking massive changes to Saipan’s zoning law, including changing designated “rural village” areas to “village commercial.”

Douglas Brennan, president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, which has some 150 members, said the Chamber is “diametrically opposed

to House Local Bill 17-26, Substitute 1.”

“It’s not often the Saipan Chamber of Commerce gets an opportunity to comment on a piece of proposed legislation that goes so far out of its way to eliminate an original legislative initiative that has become public law because it was so badly needed in the first place,” Brennan said in a letter to the bill’s author.

The Chamber, the largest business organization in the CNMI, said the enactment of

the original zoning law, the establishment of a zoning enforcement office and the improvements that have come as a result of slow and gradual changes brought about by the zoning law and its regulations “are essentially eliminated with H.L.B. 17-26.”

Brennan, who is also general manager of Microl Corp., said the Chamber agrees with those who oppose the bill, particularly former Zoning board chair Herminia M. Fusco, in that the Chamber has many

members that have had to adjust to the changes brought about by a new way to conduct their business with respect to zoning requirements as they translate to costs associated with those requirements.

“It does not mean that we disagree with the current zoning law and its regulations to the extent this bill, and you as its sponsor, propose. Give the current law time to have the intended effect its original authors intended. SCC strongly opposes House Local Bill 17-

26,” Brennan added.

Fusco had said that HLB 17-26 S1 will drastically change Saipan’s future landscape and has far-reaching ramifications affecting property values and the quality of life of all residents and visitors.

Section 3 of the bill, for example, rezones to “mixed commercial” all areas that border any and all major paved thoroughfares 600 feet from the centerlines on either side of such street that are not zoned “mixed commercial.”

Fusco said this one sentence will effectively rezone the neighborhoods of 90 percent of the residents of Saipan to “mixed commercial.”

Some permitted uses allowed in a mixed commercial zone will be auto shops, heavy equipment and machinery shops, gas stations, barracks, septic system services, retail construction material suppliers, pawnshops, farms, contractor’s offices and storage yards, manufacturing facilities, processing plants, and warehousing.

Man gets 2-day sentence for obstructing justice

A man who allegedly assaulted a detective during a drug search at a residence of a then Labor investigator in Dandan in March has pleaded guilty.

Paul King Manglona, 36, pleaded guilty to obstructing justice last week as part of a plea bargain.

Superior Court presiding judge Robert C. Naraja sentenced Manglona to three months in prison, all suspended except for two days, with credit for the two days he had already served after his arrest. This means Manglona immediately goes free.

He was placed, however, on

one year of probation and was required to pay a \$300 fine, \$100 probation fee, and \$25 court assessment fee. He was also ordered to complete eight hours of community service.

The Office of the Attorney General had charged Manglona with assault and battery, and obstructing justice. By pleading guilty to obstructing justice, the remaining charges against him were dismissed.

The case arose from an incident on March 29, 2011, when Manglona resisted or interfered with law enforcers officers in the pursuit of their duties.

Police said detectives went to

the residence of then Labor investigator Joseph Leon Guerrero Villagomez in Dandan to serve the arrest and search warrants for Villagomez for allegedly cultivating marijuana plants.

Aside from several marijuana plants seized, detectives also allegedly recovered an undetermined amount of “ice” during a search of the house.

Manglona, the brother-in-law of Villagomez, later arrived but detective Dennis Reyes stopped him from entering the house.

Manglona allegedly hit Reyes on the arm, prompting another detective to handcuff the defendant. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Rotary to swear in new officers

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Rotary Club of Saipan’s new set of officers will be inducted in an installation ceremony on June 28, Tuesday, at the Fiesta Resort and Spa’s Hibiscus Hall.

Outgoing Rotary president Glen Perez said the incoming officers are president-elect Pete Igitol; vice president-elect Pete Schilling; secretary-elect Laila Boyer; treasurer-elect Yosh Gabaldon; Community Service director Richard Cody; Club Service director Jay Santos; Vocational Service director Kelley Butcher; International Service director Glen Perez; New Generation Service director Jeff Boyer; Foundation Service director Kim Forrester; and sergeant-at-arms Wayne Gillespie.

The officers will serve from July 1, 2011, to June 30, 2012.

About a week ago, the top three incoming officers—Igitol, Schilling, and Boyer—attended the Presidents-Elect Training Seminar in Guam. PETS is an annual training meeting for presidents-elect to help them prepare for their year as club

president. The meeting is an opportunity for incoming club presidents to build strong working relationships with their district governor-elect and incoming assistant governors.

Boyer said yesterday during the Rotary meeting at Hyatt Regency Saipan that they talked about their organization’s completed projects at the PETS meeting.

These include the recently concluded Las Vegas Night, Third Grade Dictionary Project, Garapan Youth Skate Park refurbishment, Japan Tsunami Relief

donation, Warm Windows project in Vladivostok, Russia, Trunk or Treat, the annual Man’amko Thanksgiving Luncheon, Christmas in the Marianas CD Fundraiser, Christmas Toy Drive donation, and the Parade of Books, which attracted the attention of other clubs.

Among the Saipan Rotary Club’s ongoing projects are school drive safety signs project, Marianas High School Supply Center Drive, Micro Beach Park Playground Refurbishment, and the 20th Annual Rotary Youth Basketball League.

Humanities Council fundraiser tickets now available

Tickets for the NMI Council for the Humanities’ 20th anniversary fundraiser are now available.

According to the council’s board chair, Tracy M. Guerrero, the fundraiser will be held in the Magellan Room of the Pacific Islands Club on Aug. 12, 2011, from 6pm to 11pm.

The event will feature special remarks by Fr. Eric Forbes, live island music, and an auction of unique art objects produced by local artists.

Tickets, priced at \$50 per person, include a scrumptious cocktail menu, all-you-can drink PIC beer and wine, and a chance to win thousands of dollars in raffle prizes.

Guerrero said the council hopes to raise \$20,000 and that all proceeds will be used to support public humanities programs and community grants.

“You only turn 20 once, and I am inviting our friends and supporters to join us in celebrating this important milestone” Guerrero added.

Tickets may be purchased at the council’s office located in Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai or from council board members.

For more information about this upcoming event, contact Council staff at 235-4785.

Learn more about the NMI Council for the Humanities at www.nmihumanities.org. *(PR)*

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Health and Wellness Camp will start on:
July 11 to July 22, 2011

Arts and Crafts Camp will start on:
August 01 to August 12, 2011






The **Health and Wellness Camp** is a two-week program designed to keep our CNMI youth active, to improve their athletic skills, learn the value of sportsmanship, and encourage them to live healthy and active lifestyles.


The **Arts and Crafts Camp** is also a two-week program focused on promoting healthy relationships, teaching children survival skills, enhancing their leadership and team building skills, as well as learning traditional arts & craftsmanship.




Please register your child(ren), ages 6 to 12 years old, by completing and submitting a registration form at the Division of Youth Services or at NMC AHEC (Bldg. P).

Deadline for Application is June 30, 2011.



For more information call Abner Venus from Division of Youth Services at Tel.: 664-2550/1 or call Orrin Pharmin from NMC at Tel.: 234-5498 Ext. 1020 / 1010



15 FBI

From Page 1

Tracking dog Pohaku failed yesterday in his last day to locate the sisters, even as 15 FBI agents and support staff prepare to leave Saipan to return to their jobs in Honolulu.

The Department of Public Safety also began deploying officers back to their normal shifts, while the Incident Command Post in Kagman was moved to the DPS main headquarters in Susupe.

FBI special agent Tom Simon stressed, however, that the FBI is not leaving the Luhk sisters' case behind. "We have just reached a point where the investigation can be handled by our local offices working with your local police," he said.

Pohaku, the 2-year-old male Labrador retriever, began his final search yesterday at 7am and completed it at 3pm. Pohaku began his search mission last Thursday, after arriving on the island Wednesday night with two handlers.

"His work here is done, and his services are needed back in Hawaii. Accordingly, we'd like to thank the State of Hawaii Search and Rescue team for their assistance in this case. They came a long way and worked a lot of hours, and for

that we are eternally grateful," Simon said.

Despite the enhanced reward money, now reaching \$50,000, Simon said that leads in this case have slowed down to such an extent that the FBI will be consolidating its investigators in the case with the FBI staff stationed in Guam and on Saipan.

"Between now and June 30, the FBI staff from Honolulu will be returning to our jobs in Hawaii, leaving the field work in the good hands of the local FBI offices from Saipan and Guam, along with the Saipan DPS police," said Simon, who is among those leaving. There are reportedly 15 FBI special agents assigned in the Marianas.

If at any point additional FBI resources are needed, Simon said they can flood the island with an army of FBI agents ready to help. "The FBI is not walking away from this case," he stressed.

He said they conducted a very thorough investigation to date, but sadly the investigation has not resulted in the answers they were looking for.

Surprise

Simon admitted to being surprised at their failure to solve the case, saying the police here are excellent.

"And if I can brag a little bit, the FBI has a history of success

in these big investigations over the past 100 years. It is absolutely baffling to me why this case has not been solved yet. But I promise to you that it is not for lack of effort," he said.

At this point, Simon said, they don't have any information where the girls are and what their physical condition is.

"It's a difficult case, it's a difficult situation. We'll continue to work this case. We will continue to work in the future. We don't have that big break in the case that we were hoping for," he said.

Timeline

As to whether investigators were able to establish that the girls were indeed seen sitting on a concrete slab near the bus stop pavilion in As Teo at 6:10am on May 25—as claimed by some eyewitnesses—Simon said they were hearing different things from different people.

"So we don't have a solid timeline for everything that happened to the girls between the time they went to bed on May 24 and the discovery of their disappearance at the end of the day on May 25. You hear different things from different people but that does not mean people are lying. Eyewitnesses are historically unreliable," he said.

Simon said the enhancement

of the reward did not result in an increase of tips. "If someone has information to provide, now is the time to provide it."

Biggest problem

The biggest problem the investigators faced, Simon said, was the lack of physical evidence or the lack of a crime scene to process. There were no bodies of anyone to investigate, no fingerprints to dust for, and no bloodstains on the wall to analyze.

"So all the science that the FBI can bring to these investigations have really been for nothing because we don't have crime scene to process. All we have are two girls who vanished into thin air and different people saying different things about where they were at the moment in time," he said.

Birthmark man

Simon said they were able to speak to the neighbor who had talked with the "birthmarked man" on May 6. He said the neighbor didn't recognize any of the photos shown him as the man he spoke to in the white car.

"Like a lot of things in this case, it remains a mystery," he said.

The FBI doesn't believe, though, that the ultimate success or failure of the investigation hinges on finding the man

with the birthmark. "He's just another person in this complex case that we'd like to interview," Simon said.

Search operations

DPS Commissioner Ramon Mafnas said they will continue the investigation process at their Susupe headquarters. "And the efforts will remain intense. However, the search operations will be targeted only upon request and for areas with tremendous potential," he said.

He said they will keep the support system in place at the Incident Command Post in Kagman, but they will move the bulk of operations down to the Susupe headquarters.

He assured all personnel who put in overtime work for the search that they will be paid.

Mafnas said the government's estimated cost for overtime would reach half a million dollars. "And this is not counting logistics, supplies," he added.

With the assignment of officers now back to normal, Mafnas said they would just pull from the shift personnel to assign them to future search operations.

He disclosed that they are still interviewing several people, persons of interests, and potential witnesses and are also looking for items that they believe may be relevant to the case.

ISLAND

From Page 1

study," Sablan said in an interview. "Our project is close to \$60 million, and it will be done in phases."

The hotel project is on a 5.1-hectare public land in the Marpi/San Roque area, north of the former The Palms Resort.

Sablan said the first phase includes the construction of some 100 units of townhouse villas, while the second phase will include the construction of a seven-story, five-star hotel.

"The third phase will be a water park and other amenities," he added.

Islands Ventures LLC is a new business incorporated in the CNMI whose principals also own a California-based company with financial investments in Hong Kong.

Mall revitalization

Sablan said Island Ventures is hoping that its plan to revitalize La Fiesta Mall will be chosen by the CNMI government.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos earlier said there were three bidders, including Island Ventures and the United Micronesia Development Association Inc. Inos said the third one was Pacific Amusement in partnership with a Nova Scotia, Canada-based firm.

But Pacific Amusement Inc. general manager James Gebhard, when asked yesterday, said the lieutenant governor may have mixed up their company with that of another business.

It turned out that the third bidder in the La Fiesta project is Pacific Entertainment Technology.

Manny Borja, first vice president of Pacific Entertainment Technology, confirmed yesterday that they responded to the La Fiesta RFP. He said they partnered with the Canada-based firm Techlink.

Borja said the officers of Pacific Entertainment Technology are former Senate president Juan Demapan as president, Tony Rasiang as second vice president, and Jack Manglona as treasurer/secretary.

He said they are optimistic their proposal will outperform the other two bids.

The other bidder, UMDA, owns the now-closed 313-room The Palms Resort across La Fiesta.

Inos said a team has been formed to review the three proposals.

Initial estimates are that La Fiesta Mall renovations will cost at least \$5 million.

Besides retail stores and other tourism-related activities, the La Fiesta Mall revitalization project requires the construction of a gaming area for at least 200 video lottery terminals.

The government has been paying some \$200,000 annually for the lease of the La Fiesta property, yet it has not earned a single cent from it since 2004. Rather than let the facility deteriorate further, the government wants to revitalize it; this was why the government sought proposals from interested parties.

SHEFA

From Page 1

ars. The \$587,700 award covers 320 checks for grant-in-aid recipients; 135 checks for field of study awards; and 141 checks for incentive scholars.

Mafnas said that SHEFA reviewed and verified all the checks prior to releasing them yesterday to ensure that all recipients comply with requirements.

He said these checks were part of SHEFA checks that have been pending at the Finance Department since April 14.

As of yesterday, Mafnas said that awards worth over

\$300,000 remain pending at Finance, covering some scholars for fall 2012.

Mafnas expressed relief yesterday that many scholars will now be able to pay for their dues and enroll for the next semester. He appealed to other parents and students for their continued patience and understanding as the government continues to grapple with declining poker revenues. SHEFA funds are sourced from poker license fees and taxes. He said that Finance is doing its best to fulfill its obligation to all scholars.

Prior to this release, SHEFA was bombarded with calls from outraged parents and students

due to the lengthy delay in the issuance of the checks.

The Legislature provides SHEFA an annual appropriation of \$3 million for its scholarship programs.

In the fall 2010 semester, SHEFA disbursed \$2.3 million in total financial assistance to scholars. This left the program with only \$906,900 for spring 2011 scholars.

Saipan Tribune learned that Finance has already disbursed \$770,500 for spring 2011 scholars while \$136,400 remains pending.

Mafnas hopes the last batch of pending checks for the spring scholars would be out soon.

LAWMAKERS

From Page 1

This is in light of lingering questions on the contents of OPA's completed investigation report on Attorney General Edward Buckingham's involvement in a 2010 political campaign gathering in 2010.

Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) said yesterday there should be no reason to keep from the public an OPA report on an investigation that's long been completed and recommendations have already been sent out to the subject agency or official.

"To my understanding, that report has long been done and should become public record," said Palacios.

Palacios said he would be reviewing laws related to OPA's disclosure of reports, and consider the need to amend them to compel OPA to make public reports on completed investigation.

He also said that the attorney

general's lawsuit against the public auditor could have been avoided had the two officials communicated with each other.

He said during these times when government hours are reduced from 80 to 64 biweekly, the government, including the Office of the Attorney General, should do its best to collect millions of dollars from individuals found liable to pay back the government.

As of June 30, 2010, OPA referred audit recommendations in seven audit reports to the OAG for legal action to recover some \$2.6 million in improperly expended funds. The OAG has yet to collect a single cent as of June 30, 2010.

House minority leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan) said he would support law amendments that seek to allow OPA to disclose reports on completed investigation. Besides disclosure of reports, he said he would also like to see penalty provisions in

laws governing OPA.

"After an OPA report and recommendation is responded to, I believe that report and recommendation should be issued to the public," he said.

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), for his part, said: "I think if the investigation and report are done, the report should be made public."

But just like Palacios, Torres said he would like to review the law first.

OPA has been citing 1 CMC Section 8563, which states that "Complaints to the Public Auditor and investigations and recommendations thereon shall be confidential, except as necessary to carry out powers and duties of the Public Auditor or to enable another person or agency to consider and act upon the notices and recommendations of the Public Auditor..."

Public auditor Michael Pai, in response to *Saipan Tribune* requests for a copy of the OPA

report to be made available for inspection under the Open Government Act, said while the lack of OPA's ability to comment and the confidentiality of records relating to Commonwealth Ethics Act investigations might be dissatisfying to the press and appear unfair to the interested public, OPA cannot defy existing law.

"OPA must defer to the wisdom of the CNMI Legislature in enacting laws in the best interest of the public," Pai said.

OPA released the report and recommendations to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Buckingham in December.

Media requests with OPA and the Office of the Governor for a copy of the report under the Open Government Act have been responded to with "confidentiality" restrictions.

Fitial told *Saipan Tribune* on Friday that he's already shared verbally with the media the findings of the investigation report. He said OPA found Buck-

ingham in violation of law in connection with his presence at a campaign gathering for then delegate candidate Joe Camacho of the Covenant Party.

But Fitial said Buckingham did not violate any law "because there's no law barring what Buckingham did."

Even the individuals who filed complaints with OPA regarding Buckingham's alleged hosting of a campaign gathering for a delegate candidate have yet to see the report. One of them, Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan, said if he AG did nothing wrong, he should make the OPA report public.

On June 13, Buckingham filed a lawsuit against Pai over OPA's hiring of lawyers. But he said this is not a retaliatory action against OPA, but about the Office of the Attorney General doing its job of protecting public from being wasted and ensuring laws and regulations are complied with.

TO SHED LIGHT ON MHS ISSUES

House education panel to invite PSS execs anew

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives' Education Committee will again invite top officials of the Public School System and Board of Education to a meeting to hear their side of the story on issues surrounding Marianas High School.

Committee chair Rep. Raymond Palacios (Cov-Saipan) said yesterday that letter of invitations will be sent to Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, human resource officer Charlie Kenty, Board of Education chair Marylou Ada, and MHS principal Craig Garrison—who is the

subject of complaints raised to lawmakers.

These individuals had snubbed a recent public hearing conducted by the panel over the same issue. In that hearing, eight persons testified against the MHS principal and urged for his ouster.

Palacios said his committee is determined to submit its recommendations to the education board but it needs to complete the process by giving education officials another chance to air their side. The meeting is slated for July 6 at the House chamber and is open to the public.

"The committee decided [today] to give them another

chance and this new meeting is to ensure fairness on the 'recommendation/decision' to be made by the members. So we're hoping they will spare some time for this important meeting," said Palacios.

In case these officials do not show up again, Palacios said the committee might subpoena them to compel them to attend. He hopes, however, that the situation will not go that far.

He reiterated that the "inquiry" is not a form of micromanagement on the affairs and operation of the school but is part of lawmakers' responsibility to ensure that "teachers are free from any harm" in their schools and to

maintain their effectiveness.

Garrison is being criticized for his management style and leadership approach. The allegations against him were primarily raised by teacher James Yanget-mai, who organized a four-day protest in April. Garrison has denied all allegations.

Garrison has yet to respond to *Saipan Tribune's* question if he will accept the lawmakers' latest invitation. He failed to attend the first meeting due to graduation rehearsals at his school.

The hourlong meeting yesterday was attended by Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (R-Saipan), committee vice chair Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan), Rep.

Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Ramon Tebuteb

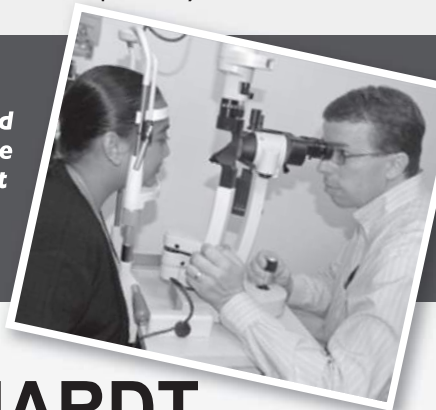
(R-Saipan), house counsel Joe Tajeron, and legislative assistant Claire Sablan.



Protecting Your Eyes From the Sun

The sun's primary danger is in the form of ultraviolet (UV) radiation. This can have adverse long and short-term effects on the eyes and your vision. There are many things you can do to prevent this, especially wearing sunglasses and lenses that offer UV protection. We welcome you to come in and talk to us about what you can do to protect yourself.

Whether you have an emergency, need a comprehensive eye exam or just have a simple question, we're here to help!



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Yes, we accept your insurance—All major insurance plans accepted.

DPH finds no recalled products from Taiwan on NMI's shelves

After weeks of looking for recalled products from Taiwan, the Bureau of Environmental Health declared the Commonwealth yesterday to be free of beverages laced with a chemical that is harmful to reproductive organs.

Early this month, the CNMI joined the global recall of food products made in Taiwan after it received an emergency alert from the International Food Safety Authorities Network about soft drinks and sports drinks that have been contaminated with 2-ethyl hexyl.

John Tagabuel, deputy secretary for public health, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that bureau inspectors have found

none of the recalled items on Commonwealth shelves.

"BEH inspectors from Rota, Tinian, and Saipan have visited licensed wholesalers and retailers and have confirmed to date that the recalled product have not been imported to the CNMI," he said.

The recalled items were found

to contain high levels of the chemical 2-ethyl hexyl, a chemical used in the manufacture of plastic products. Products potentially containing high levels of this chemical had been distributed to Vietnam, the Philippines, and several regions of China.

The recalls involved 290 Taiwanese companies that pur-

chased tainted ingredients from at least two manufacturers that substituted a chemical called di-ethyl hexyl phthalate for palm oil as a "clouding agent" in their products. Phthalates have been linked to cancer and reproductive damage and are especially dangerous to children and fetuses. (Moneth Deposa)

TO ALL HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS, SENIORS

NMC-CREES offers summer internships

The Northern Marianas College's Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service is encouraging incoming high school juniors and seniors for school year 2011-2012 to apply for its summer internship program.

The internship will take place from July 18 to Aug. 19, 2011.

As part of the internship program, students will explore and learn about the fields of agriculture and family sciences. NMC-CREES has different divisions including Aquaculture, Entomology, Plant Pathology, and Food Science.

The deadline to apply for the internship is no later than 4:30pm on Monday, June 27, 2011. Application forms and additional information are available at the NMC-CREES offices in Building F at the NMC Saipan campus, and at the administrative offices of the NMC Rota and Tinian Instructional Sites.

For more information, contact Mark Flores at 234-5498 Ext. 1706.

The internship program is made possible by funds from the ADAP Professional Development Project and Resident Instruction/CARIPAC Project. (NMC)

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For twenty-eight (or 28) years, Calvary has been preparing young children for the future with a strong phonics-based program that produces results unmatched in the CNMI.

In a loving, disciplined, and balanced atmosphere, our program combines solid teaching with fun-filled activities to give your child the best education anywhere on the island.

Children learn and parents have peace of mind because we are just as concerned about your child's future as **you are**.



Kindergarten - 5 Calvary Christian Academy
Mrs. Elizabeth Workman

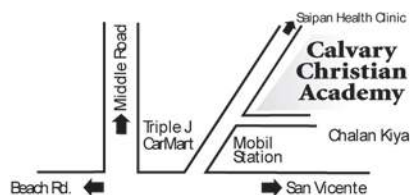
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August 8, 2011**

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ENROLLING HIM AT CALVARY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
IS A RIGHT STEP IN MAKING THAT FUTURE BRIGHT**

BEFORE THE END OF THE KINDERGARTEN YEAR YOUR CHILD WILL BE

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Office open: Mon-Fri, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

NIMO wants participation in Pagan feasibility study

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Islands Mayor Tobias Aldan wants his office to be involved in a feasibility study by a private company on mining pozzolan and basalt materials on Pagan.

In a June 13 letter to Public Lands Secretary Oscar M. Babauta, Aldan asked DPL to at least consider the need to provide jobs for Pagan residents and update the Northern Islands Development Planning Committee on the status of parcels of lands involved in the study.

Babauta had issued on May 20 a temporary authorization to Island Ventures LLC to use public land—on Parcels B and C—that it will use to conduct a feasibility study on the northernmost portion of Pagan Island. Each of the two parcels measure 510 hectares.

The temporary authorization,

which expires on May 19, 2012, allows for the use of the public land only for the purpose of the feasibility study.

“[Island Ventures LLC] shall not conduct any commercial activities nor shall it conduct any extraction of pozzolan and basalt materials on the premises,” the permit states.

Island Ventures LLC will not be assessed any fee since the project is non-commercial.

In his letter to Babauta, Aldan cited “other disturbances the proposed activity may cause to the natural setting of Pagan and compromise the tranquility of Pagan residents.”

Pedro I. Itibus, DPL acting secretary, said in his response that it would be “premature” to respond to the concerns expressed by Aldan due to lack of commercial activities.

“The DPL will certainly apprise the Northern Islands Mayor’s Office about updates from

Island Ventures LLC and of any other new developments. Your recommendations will be taken into consideration upon the determination of a positive and feasible outlook for mining pozzolan and basalt materials from Pagan Island,” he said.

In an interview, Itibus said there were other companies, including JG Sablan, which have expressed interest in conducting feasibility studies on Pagan. “But they didn’t pan out,” he said.

Pagan is a volcanic island that is over 200 miles north of Saipan.

In December 2006, Itibus said the agency commissioned Dr. John Wilson from Arizona to write a report on pozzolan and pozzolan mining on Pagan, several years after its last eruption in 1981.

“He [Wilson] basically stated that since the eruption, it has taken the government too long to do an assessment,” told

Saipan Tribune. “Pozzolan has eroded so much that the poten-

tial to extract the material is not so significant.”

Itibus said that although the agency would want to conduct another study on pozzolan min-

ing on Pagan, funding gets in the way.

“We’re happy to assist any interested company that wants to conduct the study,” he added.

DESPITE HIRING MORE MONEY MANAGERS

Fund sees drop in total managers’ fees

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

From just nine money managers handling the NMI Retirement Fund’s investment portfolio, the agency now has a total of 11 companies that will manage the pension program’s various investments.

This came about after the Fund board approved the selection of seven new money managers and retained the services of four others.

Despite the increase in numbers, Fund counsel Carolyn Kern said they project to see a reduction in total money manager fees.

“The money managers are paid based on the value of

the funds they invest and our overall amount available for investment is decreasing as we continue to drawdown to pay for benefits, and the movement to passively managed allocations will be less expensive, as well as more liquid,” she told Saipan Tribune yesterday.

As of April 30 this year, the Fund’s investment portfolio was valued at \$328 million.

Board of trustees chair Sixto Igisomar said the hiring of more money managers is a requirement of the new asset allocation model recommended by the Fund’s investment consultant, Wilshire Consulting. That model uses a “moderate-alternative” strategy that requires a slightly

“more risky” approach in a bid to obtain higher returns.

Igisomar disclosed that the money managers will be paid not in “soft-dollar payments” but on specific basis points approved for such strategies.

He said the average money managers’ fee is less than a percent of the amount they’re handling for the Fund.

Igisomar said the addition of new managers is the “best approach” right now but is not the solution to the current financial problem of the Fund.

“Is this the solution for the crisis? No, it is not...but this is the best solution and approach to managing the current portfolio,” he explained.

4th suspect in driver’s license scam pleads guilty

Four of the five persons accused of involvement in a driver’s license scam at the Department of Public Safety have now pleaded guilty to the charges in federal court.

Tahira Dolores Miah appeared yesterday with her court-appointed counsel, Anthony Long, to change her plea and plead guilty to conspiracy to unlawfully produce and transfer an identification document.

U.S. District Court for the NMI judge A. Wallace Tashima

set Miah’s sentencing hearing for Sept. 21, 2011, at 9am.

The judge granted assistant U.S. attorney Kirk Schuler’s request that Miah’s no contact order with her husband, Mohammad Jahangir Miah, be removed.

Mr. Miah is the only remaining defendant in the case who has yet to plead guilty. The U.S. Probation Office yesterday asked the federal court to set a hearing and issue summons for Mr. Miah to determine if his bail should be modified or revoked after he was

arrested for allegedly possessing marijuana last May.

The other defendants in the case are former DPS Bureau of Motor Vehicles supervisor William A. Hocog, Hongmei Sun, and Hui Qiang Yan.

According to the U.S. government, Sun and Yan introduced foreign nationals as driver’s license applicants to the Miah couple in order for the applicants to illegally obtain driver’s licenses with the help of Hocog. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT NO. 11-01

United States District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands

DOCKET CLERK

Location: GARAPAN, SAIPAN, MP PERMANENT FULL-TIME
Grade CL-24 \$32,936 per annum, plus 17.23% COLA
(With promotion potential to CL-26, \$40,058 to \$65,142 plus COLA)

OPEN: June 15, 2011 CLOSING DATE: June 22, 2011

The Court reserves the right to withdraw or extend the closing date for this position.

Selected applicant must be available to begin employment on July 1, 2011.

Position Overview:

This position is located in the Clerk’s Office of the U.S. District Court, in Saipan. The incumbent receives and reviews documents for conformity with federal and local rules, including electronic case filing from Internet users, and assists with case management. The incumbent also acts as cashier, assists with courtroom operations, and assists with shelving of law library materials. Information is at: <http://www.nmid.uscourts.gov>

Minimum Qualifications:

Applicants must be a high school graduate or equivalent and must have two years general experience and one year specialized experience, which has provided a good understanding of office clerical practices and knowledge of legal procedure and or legal pleading. Applicants must also have excellent office computing skills.

Educational Substitutes:

Education above high school level in accredited institutions may be substituted for the general experience on the basis of one academic year equals nine months of general experience.

Desirable Qualifications:

An Associate (AA or AS) college degree is desirable. Applicants should possess the ability to exercise mature judgment and the ability to communicate effectively in writing and orally. Strong legal office and/or administrative work experience is desirable.

Other Requirements:

Applicants are required to be U.S. citizens or U.S. Permanent Residents who are actively seeking U.S. citizenship. The selected candidate will be subject to a background check as a condition of employment. All appointments subject to mandatory electronic funds transfer (Direct Deposit) for payment of net pay. Applicants selected for interviews must travel or relocate at their own expense. The incumbent is subject to a six (6) month probationary period.

Application Procedure:

Each applicant is required to submit a cover letter; plus an AO-78 application form, and a five-year salary history. Optional resume may be included with AO-78 application. AO-78 forms are on the Internet at: <http://www.nmid.uscourts.gov>, or may be picked up at the U.S. District Court. Submit applications by hand delivery, or by fax or email with originals mailed and postmarked by closing date, to:

**Clerk of Court
United States District Court
for the Northern Mariana Islands
2nd Floor, Horiguchi Building, Garapan
P.O. Box 500687, Saipan MP 96950**

(Fax 670-236-2910 galo_perez@nmid.uscourts.gov)

The U.S. District Court is an Equal Opportunity Employer



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-IFB-11-043

CHALAN KANOA SEWERLINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT NO. 1

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the rehabilitation and upgrade of Sewer Lift Stations and installation of Force-Main in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists, in general of the replacement of asbestos cement pipe (ACP) sewerline in two areas of Chalan Kanoa. The first project is to replace and re-locate a section of existing 6 inch ACP sewerline which has collapsed along Texas Road in the vicinity of the Chalan Kanoa cemetery, with 584 linear feet (LF) of 8-inch PVC sewerline and 3 new concrete manholes. The second project is the replacement of 160 LF of existing 6 inch ACP sewerline, between two existing manholes, located on Brigida Street in front of the on-going Sandy Beach Homes project. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **90 calendar** days from date of award of contract.

The Bid Package and Scope-of-Work may be picked-up, upon receipt of a deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, in the amount of \$ 100.00 (non-refundable) for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site-Visit, will be held on **June 30, 2011 at 9:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.10, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

One (1) original and Seven (7) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “**CUC-IFB-11-043, Chalan Kanoa Sewerline Replacement Project No. 1**” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on July 14, 2011**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 30 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers’ questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI’s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance Code. Please refer to other bidding requirements described in Document 00200 - Instructions to Bidders.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on July 05, 2011** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email - msablan@cucgov.net with a copy to Mr. Brian Bearden, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email brian_bearden@cucgov.net and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant - mika_muna@cucgov.net.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

**ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director**

Rotary Club's Las Vegas Night raises over \$37,000

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The gross proceeds for the successful Las Vegas Night event organized by the Rotary Club of Saipan reached \$37,130.

The annual fundraiser was held on June 18 at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

Rotary treasurer Amie Javier said during the group's meeting yesterday that expenses incurred for the event are estimated at \$18,654, including the \$15,500 in cash prizes for the raffle draw.

Based on these figures, Javier

said the net income from the event amounts to \$16,486.

"The board has decided to take about 20 percent of the net proceeds and put it into our savings account for the Kagman playground project," disclosed Rotary president Glen Perez.

He said it will take them several years to come up with the funds for the project, the same way they did with the American Memorial Park playground.

According to Perez, Las Vegas Night attracted the participation of 33 out of 43 Rotarians. There were also numerous

guests who provided assistance at the Black Jack, Bingo, and Texas Hold'em tables.

Some Rotarians noted, however, that they were short of volunteers who should have taken care of providing drinks for Rotarians who were manning the various gaming tables.

"We could take all our notes and pass it on to next year's director in charge of the event," said Perez.

Perez added that they will look into moving the Las Vegas Night event to March "when people are not off-island."

Hard Rock adds Chamorro burger to their menu

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Starting today, Hard Rock Café Saipan and Guam will have something new on their Legendary Burger menu, which they expect to become a favorite among diners.

The Legendary Chamorro Burger features a 10-ounce grilled Certified Angus Beef and Hot & Spicy Jack Cheese, layered with the chef's special sauce and served with seasoned French fries. The new burger will be exclusively available on Saipan and in Guam.

Kotwal Singh, executive chef for Hard Rock Café Saipan and Guam, said that burgers have been one of their top sellers since the opening

of the first Hard Rock Café in London in 1971. Since then, Hard Rock Café has been serving fresh, high-quality, and authentic American fare that include items from the Legendary Experience and the Smokehouse Menus.

"With our unique ingredients and delectable combinations of flavors, this new Chamorro Burger will certainly be the locals' favorite," said Singh.

Other favorites are Hard Rock desserts like Chocolate Mousse, Strawberry Cheesecake, Crème Brûlée, and Chocolate Peanut Butter Pie.

Besides food, Hard Rock also has an extensive drinks menu that features award-winning concoctions such as Hurricanes, Margaritas, Mojitos, and their

line of Alternative Rock or alcohol-free beverages served in souvenir collectible glassware.

Hard Rock International is also known for its collectible retail merchandise and rock 'n roll-inspired items such as signature pins that can be purchased at both Saipan and Guam locations.

Additionally, Hard Rock also donates to numerous charitable programs and fundraising efforts, including the annual Pinktober event and the Imagine There's No Hunger Campaign.

Hard Rock International is one of the world's most globally recognized brands, with a total of 163 venues in 50 countries, including 126 cafes and 15 hotels/casinos.

Russian market eyes Hong Kong-Saipan package

Opportunities to increase visitor arrivals from Russia are being negotiated with the recent visit of a Russian airline and travel agency looking to collaborate with Fly Guam in offering a Hong Kong-Saipan package.

The general manager of Transaero Airlines, the director general of Jetford Co. Ltd., and a sales manager of Fly Guam visited Saipan in May to explore the possibility of developing a charter flight package that will offer three or four days in Hong Kong and a week or

more on Saipan. Both destinations allow the entry of Russian passport holders without other visa requirements.

"Based on what they've found, they say Saipan has very reasonable prices and excellent hotel accommodations for middle- and high-class travelers from Russia," said Marianas Visitors Authority marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "Russians view the Northern Marianas as a safe destination, and as having clean and non-crowded beaches plus year-

round perfect weather."

The familiarization tour was organized by the MVA, Fly Guam, and Belka Tours.

During their three-day tour, they stayed at Fiesta Resort and SPA Saipan and conducted hotel inspections at Saipan World Resort, Marianas Resort and Spa, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Aqua Resort Club, and Saipan Grand Hotel. They also visited Managaha, took an island tour of Saipan, and shopped at DFS Saipan. (MVA)



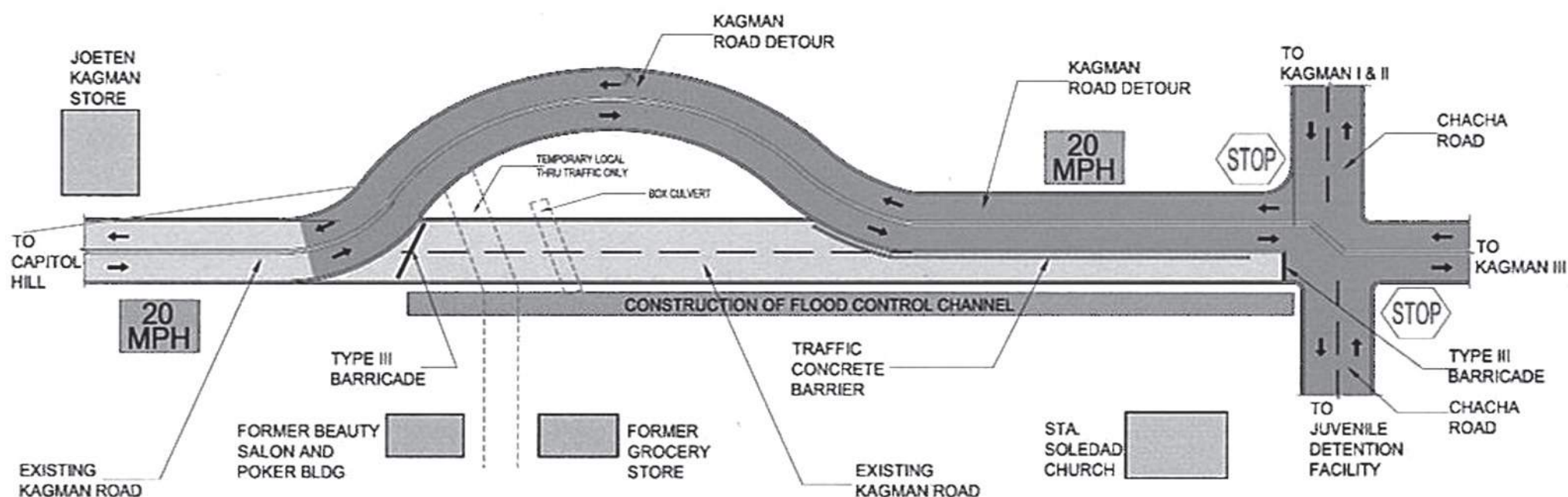
Officials of Russian-based Transaero Airlines and Jetford Co. Ltd. visit the Northern Marianas for a familiarization tour in May 2011. Front row, from left, Marianas Visitors Authority marketing manager Bruce Bateman, general manager Andrey Alekseev of Transaero Airlines, Vladimir Flyazhenkov of Jetford Co. Ltd., Fly Guam sales manager Lui Bik Shan Bee, Nina Dubovik of Belka Tours, and MVA marketing specialist Tatiana Babauta. At back are Eduardo Garza and Carlos Santos of Fly Guam and Alexander Vekhov of Belka Tours.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Effective June 23, 2011, Kagman Road traffic will be detoured as depicted below to allow for the safe construction of an underground Flood Control Channel and a large Box Culvert as part of the Kagman Watershed Project. This paved detour is expected to remain in place throughout the construction at a reduced speed of 20 MPH.

We apologize for any inconvenience.

RNV CONSTRUCTION



China's *Elite Traveller* mag looks at NMI

One of China's leading high-end travel magazines turned its eye to the Northern Mariana Islands this month, with the recent visit of *Elite Traveller* magazine.

Elite Traveller distributes to 380,000 readers in 50 major cities in China, including Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, and Hong Kong. The magazine targets well-to-do young and middle-aged readers and is jointly run by Ctrip.com, a leading consolidator of hotel accommodations and airline tickets in China, and JOYU International Tourism Operating Group.

Subscribers are largely VIP members of Ctrip.com, and the magazine is also retailed in airports, newsstands, and convenience stores.

The Marianas Visitors Authority supported the familiarization tour by assisting with shooting permits.

"Our goal is to generate new interest through *Elite Traveller* that will bring more passengers



Elite Traveller model Ren Hui poses at Bird Island Lookout on Saipan during the magazine's familiarization tour of the Northern Mariana Islands on June 3-7, 2011.

to the Northern Marianas on our Beijing and Shanghai charter flights," said MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "Last fiscal year, visitors from China comprised 11 percent of all visitor arrivals, so this market

remains a critical part of the islands' overall tourism health."

While in the Northern Marianas June 3-7, 2011, the 10-member crew spent two days on Tinian, lodging at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino and

taking in an island tour and an island barbecue dinner show. On Saipan, the group stayed at Hyatt Regency Saipan and also covered Mariana Resort & Spa, Managaha, and various sites around the island. (MVA)

Rota son graduates with honors

Oliver M. Manglona received his bachelor's degree in Political Science, *magna cum laude*, from St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas, at commencement exercises held in May 2011. He was a recipient of the CNMI Honors Scholarship, the Presidential Scholarship at St. Mary's University, and was a member of the Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society.

Manglona, 21, was the 2007 salutatorian at Rota High School. He completed the CNMI Supreme Court Summer Pre-law Program in 2010 and will be attending the University of Hawaii School of Law in August. He plans to return to the Northern Marianas to work as a prosecutor.

He is the son of Charles and Lorna Manglona of Rota. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Oliver M. Manglona graduates from St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas, during commencement exercises held in May 2011.



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Broadband townhall meeting reset

This is to inform the public that today's CNMI Broadband Mapping townhall meeting location that was originally to be held at the Kagman Community Center has been changed pending confirmation of new location. The new Kagman meeting location will be announced at a later date and time. For more information or if you need direction to any of our meeting sites, email us at camachotj@yahoo.com or by calling 483-6200. (PR)

Grow your business with BizGrowth CHALLENGE

The BizGrowth CHALLENGE is a 12-week program guaranteed to boost your bottom line and create sustainable growth. Go to www.SaipanBestLiving.com and download the PDF for complete details. Come to the BizGrowth Launch Symposium at the Multi-Purpose Center on the following two days:

■ **Today, June 22, 8am-12pm**—Free training with CREES for farmers, and new businesses. Come and get your business license and join the outsourcing network to get on a list to be hired on a project basis.

■ **Tomorrow, June 23, 8am-5pm**—The morning session is for business owners to get a fast start on the CHALLENGE.

The afternoon has three, one-hour sessions on topics such as: Grants for businesses, bookkeeping, motivation, personal financial management, getting a loan, and more. During the 12 weeks you'll get training and support worth over \$1,800 to grow your business, for only \$97. Includes a 30-day money back guarantee. Go to the website to learn more or register. (Save \$20 before the 22nd) (PR)

Kagman High School summer school applicants

To all juniors and seniors from Kagman High School who completed summer school applications for this summer session at Saipan Southern High School, busing will begin pickup at your respective bus stops for this week. After this week, students will be picked up at the school campus closest to your home. You must attend classes regularly to gain the credit needed for graduation. You will not graduate on time unless you comply! If you are a junior who needs credit recovery, apply for summer school at the main office before Monday, June 27. If anyone has any questions, call the main office at 237 3840. (PR)

Enrollment info for Kagman High

To all returning Kagman High

School students, parents and guardians: All students must register anew for school year 2011-2012, even if you went to KHS this last school year. The school is updating its records and everyone must re-register or they will not receive a class schedule for the school year. Register before Aug. 19 for optimum scheduling. Registration forms can be picked up from the registrar or in the main office.

Documents needed for registration are: official transcript (only if transferring from another school); registration form with E-Rate Survey; copy of health certificate clearance; copy of birth certificate; copy of medical insurance provider; map to residence; and guardianship or power of attorney (if legal guardian).

For more information, call 237 3840 or 237 3886. (PR)

Boy Scout meeting today

A special Boy Scout meeting will be held today, June 22, 2011, at 4pm at the liberation Day Carnival grounds across Kristo Rai Church in Garapan.

The agenda will include the Cub Scout Day Camp and Boy Scout Summer Camp Program; Liberation Day parade; distribution of T-shirts; and collection of camp fee: Cub Scout (\$2), Boy Scout (\$4).

All Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, parents and unit leaders are requested to be present at this important meeting. Please, be on time. For more inform, contact your respective Cub Scout/Boy Scout Leader or Island Director Calisto I. Reyes at 285-9709 or 235-9708. (PR)

Air Force training on Farallon de Medinilla

The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on the following dates and times:

■ June 22, from 9am to 10pm

■ June 24, from 11am to 7:30pm

The public, especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear from the area during the dates and times indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the CNMI. (USN)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 23, 1999

CUC chairman quits

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation chair Juan S. Dela Cruz resigned yesterday from the board of directors, citing his desire to devote more time in his private job. "I have been proud to serve and believe that during my tenure the board has achieved many accomplishments. We have paved the way for a new power plant for Saipan and have a new power plant up and running on Tinian," he said in his resignation letter to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio. "We have made progress in the difficult area of water supply to all the islands of the CNMI. During the last four years we have made great strides in improving the finance of the corporation - overtime costs, travel expenditures, and non-essential purchase costs have been significantly reduced," he added.

DPS, CHC in tug of war over ambulance fees

Even though the Department of Public Safety runs the fleet of ambulance vans used by the Commonwealth Health Center to respond to emergency cases outside the hospital, the \$300 charged for each run does not go to the department. Rep. Oscar M. Babauta yesterday pledged to correct the existing set-up between DPS and CHC regarding the use of these vehicles, saying portion of the money should go to maintenance and repair of ambulance vans. "We should seriously look into the issue so that DPS is not shortchanged by the funds that CHC is collecting from the ambulance run," he said in an interview.

June 23, 2000

PSS draws up plan for performance appraisal

In a move to make a comprehensive evaluation on the quality of school administrators and teachers in the Public School System Education, Commissioner Rita H. Inos is devising a plan to create a schoolwide performance appraisal assessment for teachers and principals. The evaluation will allow both teachers and administrators to evaluate themselves and their colleagues for the first time in the history of PSS. Lacking the appropriate personnel to oversee the responsibility, the commissioner's office is currently tapping resources to be able to produce the staff that would administer the evaluation process.

MVA opposes bill increasing board members

The Marianas Visitors Authority yesterday expressed concern on the financial effect of a proposed measure that will increase the number of MVA board of directors from the current nine to 11 members to its limited financial resources. Board Chair Dave M. Sablan said the legislature failed to identify the source of funding for the two new positions of deputy managing director -- one each for Rota and Tinian. The board has scheduled a special meeting to discuss the issue extensively so that they can prepare for the recommendations to be submitted to the legislature. Mr. Sablan estimates that each MVA office for Rota and Tinian would need approximately \$200,000 each, considered a huge burden for the tourism office which has already been cutting down promotional campaigns due to limited budget.

June 23, 2004

Legislature questions loss of power over 702 funds

The Office of Insular Affairs has promised to work with the CNMI Legislature to find out why the legislative branch was stripped of powers to appropriate CIP funds under the fiscal year 2005 agreement. House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial raised yesterday why the CNMI Legislature was not involved in the negotiation for the Section 702 agreement that was recently signed between the U.S. government and the Commonwealth. He also wants to know if such an arrangement was stipulated in the agreement. Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior David B. Cohen and Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente officially signed the CIP Funding Agreement during a brief ceremony at the Governor's Office Monday.

DOI awaits Pagan study grant application

The Department of the Interior is just awaiting any grant application from the CNMI for the proposed feasibility study on pozolan mining at Mt. Pagan. When asked, DOI Deputy Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs David Cohen said the department would look at such application, but he is personally not aware if it has been submitted. "I don't know if our officers received it. We would certainly [entertain it] and give it consideration," he said. Usually, he said the department would see if it has funding to support such project.

Hyatt recognizes staff with 'Celebrating Our People' event



◀ From left to right, Josephine Mesta, director of human resources; Diony Peralta, Hystar of the Year—Guest Services Category; Mariko Kido, Hystar of the Year—Operations Support Category; and Hyatt general manager Nick Nishikawa.

HYATT

▼ Hyatt Thrive participants pose for a group photo during the beach cleanup.

HYATT



By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Employees of Hyatt Regency Saipan took the limelight when the only international brand hotel on island held its "Celebrating Our People" event from June 13 to 15.

The annual event is part of Hyatt International's program dedicated to recognizing hotel associates and their contribution to providing authentic hospitality.

"Hyatt Regency Saipan's valued associates enjoyed a number of activities that promoted fun, teamwork, and excitement," said marketing communications assistant manager

Luis Villagomez.

These activities included an island-style breakfast where members of the executive committee served breakfast to employees, arts and crafts, dodgeball, obstacle course, and tanganan-tangan baseball.

"On the last day of the event, employees enjoyed a potluck barbecue by the beach where they spent special time with friends and families," said Villagomez.

The three-day annual event was highlighted by the presentation of several awards to Hyatt Regency Saipan associates.

Regency Club team leader Anthea Baltazar was named Leader of the Year, while Kili

Café and Terrace team leader Violetta Lopez was named Trainer of the Year. Both received plaques for their dedication and efforts.

The Hystar of the Year Award 2010, the most awaited employee accolade, was presented to two outstanding employees who showed authentic hospitality and outstanding support.

The awardees, Villagomez said, were selected through a voting process among the hotel's Executive Committee. "The selection of the Hystar associate starts with earning 'Hystar' points through guest recognitions, colleague appreciation, and other participations that signify authentic hospitality,"

explained Villagomez. "These points are accumulated within an award year and the five associates are chosen."

For the guest services category, the award was presented to Food and Beverage wait staff Dionisio Peralta while the operations support category award was given to Sales and Marketing coordinator Mariko Kido. The two each received a plaque

and \$1,500 in cash.

The theme for this year's event was "Hyatt Thrives," which was simultaneously launched as the hotel's international corporate responsibility platform designed to foster vibrant, healthy communities.

As part of its "Hyatt Thrives" efforts, hotel employees took part in a cleanup of Micro Beach on June 15.

"We believe that taking care and nurturing our natural environment plays a key role in promoting tourism and hospitality in the Marianas," said Hyatt general manager Nick Nishikawa.

Through "Hyatt Thrives" activities, employees are able to "foster a community that they will be proud to be a part of," Villagomez added.

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR HARBOR PLANNING SERVICES

RFQ11-GOV-107

The Office of the Mayor and Rota Legislative Delegation are soliciting statements of professional qualifications ("RFQ") from engineering firms to prepare a feasibility study and conceptual design for the development of the East Harbor, on the Island of Rota in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Island of Rota has a long history of an unsafe harbor entrance and berthing area that has hampered shipping and economic development. The legislative delegation of the Island of Rota seeks to explore the feasibility of the development of the Rota East Harbor in order to provide a long-term solution to these issues.

Interested engineering firms are invited to submit statements of professional qualifications. Proposals will be evaluated on experience and information presented in the following areas:

1. Harbor planning, analysis, and design experience (25%)
2. Harbor construction permitting experience including but not limited to environmental assessment; United States Army Corps of Engineers; and local agency reviews (25%)
3. Financial and economic analysis experience (25%)
4. Proposed approach (25%)
5. Cost estimate for identified services (0%)

Proposals should address each item identified in the evaluation structure and follow the structure as identified in the proposal packet that can be obtained from the Office of Capital Improvement, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan CNMI on or after June 20, 2011. Questions regarding the RFQ must be submitted in writing to Mr. James R. Stump, CIP Contracting Officer, or faxed to (670) 664-2408, no later than 4 p.m. ChST July 06, 2011.

Performance time for completion of the study and conceptual design is One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days from issuance of a Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at Two Hundred Dollars (US\$200.00) for each and every calendar day beyond the established completion date.

Discussions shall be conducted with the top three ranked firms. After a selection is made negotiations will be conducted with the highest qualified firm to determine the final fair and reasonable price of the contract for the work to be performed. The successful proposers will be subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

Proposers must submit details of how the work will be performed and accomplished by the consultants, with the names of the responsible persons identified. Proposers shall also submit a statement of qualifications with resumes and experience of the responsible persons. The total proposal length shall not exceed fifty (50) pages in length, inclusive of resumes and previous project descriptions. Note that a firm which submits a proposal as a prime consultant, cannot also submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, as a subcontractor, the consultant may be included in multiple proposals by different consultants.

This procurement is controlled by the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Procurement Regulations as contained in Title 70 of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code. Selected contractor will be required to comply with all applicable Commonwealth and federal laws.

Proposals must be sealed and marked "RFQ11-GOV-107, Rota Harbor Feasibility Study Conceptual Design". For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP, no later than 4:30 p.m. ChST, July 18, 2011. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 4:30 p.m. ChST, July 18, 2011, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than, 4:30 p.m. July 18, 2011 ChST, and must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than June 27, 2011 ChST. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the sole property of the CNMI government.

/s/ Melchor Mendiola,
Mayor of Rota

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director of Procurement & Supply

SHIPPING SCHEDULE



Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
MELL SARACA	048E	6/11 Sat	6/9 Thu	6/9 Thu	6/7 Tue	6/4 Sat	6/17 Fri	6/13 Mon	6/12 Sun	6/5 Sun	6/5 Sun	6/13 Mon	6/17 Fri	6/19 Sun	6/21 Tue
MELL SEMAKAU	018E	6/18 Sat	6/16 Thu	6/16 Thu	6/14 Tue	6/11 Sat	6/24 Fri	6/20 Mon	6/19 Sun	6/12 Sun	6/12 Sun	6/20 Mon	6/24 Fri	6/26 Sun	6/28 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	057E	6/25 Sat	6/23 Thu	6/23 Thu	6/21 Tue	6/18 Sat	7/1 Fri	6/27 Mon	6/26 Sun	6/19 Sun	6/19 Sun	6/27 Mon	7/1 Fri	7/3 Sun	7/5 Tue
MELL SARACA	049E	7/2 Sat	6/30 Thu	6/30 Thu	6/28 Tue	6/25 Sat	7/8 Fri	7/4 Mon	7/3 Sun	6/26 Sun	6/26 Sun	7/4 Mon	7/8 Fri	7/10 Sun	7/12 Tue
MELL SEMAKAU	019E	7/9 Sat	7/7 Thu	7/7 Thu	7/5 Tue	7/2 Sat	7/15 Fri	7/11 Mon	7/10 Sun	7/3 Sun	7/3 Sun	7/11 Mon	7/15 Fri	7/17 Sun	7/19 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	058E	7/16 Sat	7/14 Thu	7/14 Thu	7/12 Tue	7/9 Sat	7/22 Fri	7/18 Mon	7/17 Sun	7/10 Sun	7/10 Sun	7/18 Mon	7/22 Fri	7/24 Sun	7/26 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA Davao	ETA GenSan	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SARACA	048E	6/25 Sat	6/26 Sun	6/26 Sun	6/27 Mon	6/29 Wed	7/1 Fri	7/3 Sun	SKIP	7/8 Fri	7/9 Sat	7/14 Thu	8/2 Tue	7/13 Wed
MELL SEMAKAU	018E	7/2 Sat	7/3 Sun	7/3 Sun	SKIP	7/6 Wed	7/8 Fri	7/10 Sun	SKIP	7/15 Fri	7/16 Sat	7/21 Thu	8/9 Tue	7/20 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	057E	7/9 Sat	7/10 Sun	7/10 Sun	7/12 Tue	7/13 Wed	7/15 Fri	7/17 Sun	SKIP	7/22 Fri	7/23 Sat	7/28 Thu	8/16 Tue	7/27 Wed
MELL SARACA	049E	7/16 Sat	7/17 Sun	7/17 Sun	SKIP	7/20 Wed	7/22 Fri	7/24 Sun	SKIP	7/29 Fri	7/30 Sat	8/4 Thu	8/23 Tue	8/3 Wed
MELL SEMAKAU	019E	7/23 Sat	7/24 Sun	7/24 Sun	7/27 Wed	7/27 Wed	7/29 Fri	7/31 Sun	SKIP	8/5 Fri	8/6 Sat	8/11 Thu	8/30 Tue	8/10 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	058E	7/30 Sat	7/31 Sun	7/31 Sun	SKIP	8/3 Wed	8/5 Fri	8/7 Sun	SKIP	8/12 Fri	8/13 Sat	8/18 Thu	9/6 Tue	8/17 Wed

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Leslie F. Alcantara
Sales and Marketing
Tel. No. (670) 322-1690 ext. 402



Opinion

Hafa Adai!

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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Mission's end

Roaring into space on two mighty blowtorches and a magnificent column of steam, the space shuttle Columbia was given a go-ahead Sunday to complete the 54 1/2-hour mission that is expected to open a new space frontier. The lift-off—the world's most spectacular space launch—awed veteran space watchers at the Kennedy Space Center here.”—*Chicago Tribune*, April 13, 1981.

Thirty years ago, space shuttle *Columbia* arced into the sky at Cape Canaveral, Fla., carrying aloft America's hopes for a thrilling sequel to the Apollo 11 moon landing.

Challenger. Discovery. Endeavour. Atlantis. Columbia. Those shuttle names conjured the spirit of exploration and the risks that came with exploring uncharted—and unforgiving—territory.

NASA promised the shuttle would be like no other spacecraft ever launched. And it was. It launched like a rocket, circled the globe and swooped to Earth like a jetliner—a symbol of American technical prowess. From 0 to 17,500 mph in just over eight minutes.

But other NASA promises didn't pan out: The shuttle didn't pay for itself by reaping millions of dollars from private companies eager to score scientific bonanzas in zero gravity. And that ambitious shuttle schedule envisioned by NASA, launching a mission just about every week? That proved to be laughably optimistic.

If all goes as planned, *Atlantis* streaks into space on July 8, the 135th and final shuttle mission.

What a long, strange trip it's been.

Sure, there were thrills along the way. Those amazing spacewalks. The triumph of sending into space the first American woman, Sally Ride, and the first African-American, Guion Bluford, little more than a month apart in the summer of 1983. The launch of the dazzling Hubble Space Telescope to help unravel the mystery of the Big Bang.

But the shuttle more often fizzled in the Igniting-America's-Imagination department. It was always in the shop for repairs. You never knew when it would launch or land because the weather had to be just right. The craft's technology showed its age: Flight deck computers often used outdated chips, “the sort of pre-Pentium electronics no self-respecting teenager would dream of using for a video game,” one critic wrote.

And where, exactly, did it go? Into low Earth orbit, a glorified 18-wheeler in space, hauling astronauts, spare parts and scientific equipment to the international space station. Astronauts also fixed balky toilets. And on one shuttle flight, Coke and Pepsi convinced NASA to do an experiment to determine if carbonated beverages could be dispensed in weightlessness. They could.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

What Americans will remember most are the disasters.

Challenger, 73 seconds into its January 1986 voyage, exploding. Tendrils of smoke and a plume of debris against an ice-blue sky. The words of a stunned Mission Control public information officer: “Flight controllers here are looking very carefully at the situation. Obviously a major malfunction.” Seven crew members died, including schoolteacher Christa McAuliffe.

A national commission pinpointed many problems that were fixed. But one wasn't: A NASA culture that often valued an aggressive launch schedule over safety.

Then *Columbia*, 16 minutes to landing, in February 2003. Debris landed in a wide swath from Texas to Louisiana. A different culprit: A briefcase-sized chunk of foam insulation that broke loose during launch and damaged a few of the 24,000-plus bricklike heat-protection tiles on the shuttle's belly.

See **MISSION** on next page



Father's Day surprise

I've always taken it as a compliment when people comment about how old I look—aged beyond my years so to speak—so I'm never bothered when people ask how much older I am than my oldest brother (who is at least five years my senior) and I found it hilarious when a store cashier asked if my little brother (who's not too much younger than me) was my son. It's pretty funny, if you think about it and put yourself in my shoes. Still, I have to admit that I was a little rattled recently when someone saw me walking around with my infant baby and asked, “Is that your gran...?” Holy mackerel! I really am an old fart. For that brief moment I actually thought maybe I should start dyeing my hair or shopping for a new, more hip wardrobe and maybe even buying a cell phone so I could walk around texting or face-booking all the people next to me. But then, my baby flashed her wet, gummy smile at me and, like magic, I forgot about myself again.

Fatherhood is the hardest job I've ever loved; in fact, it's the hardest job I've ever had—talk about taking work home with you. Don't get me wrong, it doesn't always feel like a job. The rewards always outweigh the sacrifices and, unlike a regular job, the more you work at it the less money you make. It is a job nonetheless and, like most things, it's really only as good as you make it. Anyone can be a father but it takes determination, perseverance and hard work to be a dad. There is no one-size-fits-all manual on how to be the perfect dad and success is relative. Ultimately, the type of parent we become or whether we become a parent at all is a choice and we are all entitled to make our own choices. Sadly, it's the kids (while they're still kids and prior) who have no choices in the matter.

A member of our family was sharing with us her sense of joy about having attended her niece's high school graduation. “She wasn't suppose to live that long,” she said. Apparently, at conception her biological mother had tried to abort, but failed and instead of killing the unborn child, she gave birth to a baby with severe disabilities due to the abortion attempts. Adding insult to injury, the mother abandoned the child as she was receiving medical care and, given the opportunity later in life, refused to take her in because she is severely disabled and requires “too much care”—just one more in a lifetime of selfish choices; I don't know where the father is in all of this. As difficult as it is to raise any child, the prospect of raising one with a disability (particularly one with a severe disability) is no doubt daunting and requires an extraordinary kind of man and/or woman to do so. For the record, there are plenty of such men

By **JIM RAYPHAND**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jim Rayphand is the executive director of the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, Inc.



and women here in the CNMI. What is clear from all my years of working with families, including those with children who have disabilities, are (1) children need love, affection and regular attention no matter who they are, (2) parents and other family members who care are the greatest, most effective advocates for them because they don't settle for anything less than the absolute best that they can do for their kids, and (3) given both of the above, a child can and will achieve any number of milestones regardless of how severely disabled she may be.

Father time's been a little rough, but Lady Luck is kind and on my side—three kids and counting, a special kind of Father's Day surprise. Kids are the best thing going, but they're not easy and the jury is still out on how mine will end up. So I'm exhausted, broke, and generally on edge, but that's my choice and I have the absolute, inalienable right to make my own. You could say I'm pro-choice, but personally I have and always will choose life.

Hopefully many more years from now, I actually will have and find as much joy in having my very own “Gran...”

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

P.S.: The continuing nightmare of the two missing girls weighs heavily on me and my family as I know it does on the rest of the community. As a committed parent, I really can't imagine the level of pain and suffering this must be causing the parents and other family members. On behalf of all of us at NMPASI, please allow me to extend our most sincere hopes and prayers that we may all witness only the best possible outcome for the kids, parents and other family members.]

For more information on the rights of and choices for people with disabilities, please feel free to come by the NMPASI office and meet with our staff or contact us at (670) 235-7273/4 [voice] / 235-7275 [fax] / 235-7278 [tty] and/or via the internet at www.nmpasi.com.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Revisiting US obligations

Six years ago, the keynote speaker of this administration's inaugural day reminded us of the U.S. obligation to the CNMI under the Covenant Agreement. It says in simple plain language that the U.S. shall "provide for a progressively higher standard of living" for the people of these isles.

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to know that this obligation was never met even after 33 years. In fact, there emerged a woefully disappointing dysfunctional working relationship between the CNMI and the feds. The CNMI is economically doomed! But it doesn't absolve it from owning up to its responsibility to strengthening our democratic institutions.

As the CNMI struggles to understand how to assemble and play with its complicated adult toy called self-government, the U.S. was busy imposing federal laws that simply compromise the very exercise of self-government. Perhaps Uncle Sam has pushed too many hasty rules that weren't even part of the instruction booklet.

Some of the hastily imposed laws include the annual increase (\$0.25 per year) on the federal minimum wage and takeover of immigration and labor, among others. The former sent major and small businesses slamming shutters on their door, the latter did the same given the prolonged uncertainty as more of their initial and return on investments were flushed out the floodgates of depletion. They simply dismantled and left. Net result? Economic annihilation!

The economic devastation is humongous. The CNMI once boasted an annual budget of about \$256 million or more. Today, this figure has shrunk to \$123 million, a huge decline. Furthermore, it is anticipated that the \$123 million would further plummet to as low as \$93 million next fiscal year that begins this October.

It's surprising how the feds could simply demonstrate willful command and control ruthlessly if only to show local leadership it could compromise anything it wants, when it wants and how it wants, regardless of the consequences.

Perhaps decision makers across the Pacific could afford to impose their experiment with impunity given that they never had to live with it like we do in real-life situations. The DC Experts reminds me of President Obama's council of economic advisors who saw their plans fail royally, yet they return to Harvard and other Ivy League schools in hopes of teaching how they've failed the U.S. government! Woe! Do you really wish to perpetuate failure? What

about the fate of our country? What about our livelihood?

Interference via federal imposition of laws that obviously lack the thoughtful process instantly retards the actual exercise of self-government. These dictates have proven far more destructive than constructive specifically on the local economic front. Would Uncle Sam step up to the plate in concert with local leadership to begin an economic plan for the CNMI anew? Somehow, we must grow up and begin working to fostering a functional working relationship forthwith.

■ ■ ■ ■

The 200-mile EEZ is an issue worthy of exploring with the feds so ownership rests with the NMI. It may be irrelevant when viewed against Section One of the agreement, but it should equally be remembered that the sea around us has always been an inherent part of the local tradition and culture since time immemorial. Therefore, it must be returned to the islands.

There's also a need for serious review of Section 805 of the agreement given that it literally amended the Bill of Rights under the U.S. Constitution. Must we not follow the supremacy of laws? It seems this is an overreach of authority by the U.S. Congress. No matter how you dice or splice it, it seems more so than not a violation of the U.S. Constitution on the property rights of citizens.

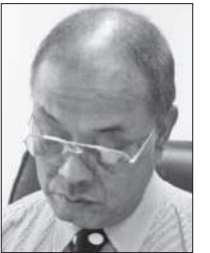
The craze to take over immigration is another show of federal arrogance that completely ignored that the greater issue in the exercise of self-government. As great our country may be, it wasn't built overnight but over 200 years ago. Although the first principles have been upheld—therefore, its enduring effects—there are anomalous issues that were never clearly answered by the sacred document. Our indecisions may be lackadaisically addressed, if at all, but there are greater issues beyond the seeming experiment and unilateral decision to cripple the local economy.

Military use of Tinian never came into fruition for 33 years now. If the Pentagon has any definitive use of the land, then say so today! You can't keep us second-guessing for the next three decades. It's time for some final decision so we can plan our future with certainty.

The issue of congressional representation pits our rights as U.S. citizens to full representation versus the dictates that such is limited to the 50 states. At issue is the denial of our rights that is accorded only to citizens who live in one of the 50 states. This must be based

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Delrosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section



on justice, not geographical residency.

Let's join hands and start working. If nothing constructive materializes soon, then we'd be yawning from dawn to dusk, quizzing if anything has moved so we could tax it to death!

■ ■ ■ ■

There's the dire need for local Republicans and Democrats to establish a sound networking relationship with state and national chief executives and lawmakers. Such a relationship is even more vital today than when the CNMI became a self-governing entity 33 years ago.

It opens up greater opportunities to work with state governors and legislators, including national lawmakers where we could quietly advance our wishes and aspirations. It also provides real-time opportunities to be in sync with the rest of the country.

Furthermore, a sound networking machinery effectively eliminates horrendous lobbyist fees we can ill afford. It puts our interest fully aligned on any and all issues affecting folks across the country. It makes it easier to communicate any and all concerns affecting all cities and towns between the Eastern Seaboard, West Coast and territories.

In fact, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce ought to do the same by establishing a networking relationship with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. It should explore how it could use the work of conservative foundations to research any and all issues on socio-economic programs based on thoroughly researched materials.

This ought to assist the Legislature put issues into perspective before they are drafted into legislation. Just a thought in hopes that we could foster some functional working relationships with DC and the entire business community across the country.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A 'real' history lesson

In response to "Mayer, Arizona, Short History Lesson" I have this to say: First, thank you very much for reading and responding to my article. We really appreciate any feedback on an issue so grave to our people. However, I've been unable to find any literature that supports your contention that Germany withdrew from our islands because they were losing World War I, and that after the war we were simply abandoned.

History books say this: After World War I the League of Nations stripped Germany of all its possessions outside of Germany and gave administrative control of our islands to the Japanese. Prior to World War II Japan withdrew from the League of Nations, and after the war the United Nations, which replaced the League of Nations, gave that control over our islands to the United States of America. A similar scenario like I stated in my article.

I teach history, the history of our islands, and I have tried to be as responsible and accurate as possible, because "truth" is the only weapon we have left. Neither myself, nor anyone I'm involved with is going to jeopardize this and leave ourselves open to criticism based on our facts alone.

A Covenant is like a treaty in some respects, and you shouldn't be that surprised that the United States has chosen to not honor that agreement, after all. How many treaties do you think the United States entered into with Native Americans and then honored these agreements later?

As far as worrying about who comes next, the only thing that makes our islands unattractive to huge foreign investment is the United States. If the U.S. left today investors would be lined up at our doorsteps. Compare that to going out of your house everyday seeing this immense low-income housing development, what we used to refer to as "projects," going up around us.

A lot of people around here are unhappy with a mindset that has nothing on the table for our economic recovery, but has chosen to prepare us for a burgeoning welfare state they've forced upon us. I know it's going to be hard to feel us from Arizona so here's an invitation. My History classes start back up again next month, please take some time to visit our islands and you can sit in on my classes free of charge. It's the only way you're ever going to understand us.

Garry Evilsizer
Koblerville, Saipan

Disgruntled statements

It is very disappointing to observe the continued downfall of a bitter ex-resident, who has returned back to the U.S. mainland and continues to spit out disgruntled and unjustified statements. This bitter person seems bent on ridiculing me and other local leaders for anything that he feels is necessary to vent his tantrums.

In a recent article about the two missing sisters of which I am related, Mr. T. Arkle decided to rant against me in the online comments that my request for a political status meeting with the federal government somehow shows my disdain for the U.S. government and its federal help for the two missing relatives of mine. Mr. Arkle, I've read your critical comments against me for a long time now, but this comment about my missing relatives deserves a sincere reply to you. Try to swallow your dissatisfaction for the CNMI, which you brought on by your own deeds, and live out your remaining years in Florida without spitting on our islands in the future.

Rep. Stanley T. McGinnis Torres
Capital Hill, Saipan

MISSION

From Page 10

Engineers had identified—and fretted over—that Achilles heel since the first launch.

On the day after the *Columbia* accident, the *Chicago Tribune* said it "should teach children and adults alike more than the calibrations of danger and loss that can reduce life to an exercise in caution. ... It is crucial, too, to cherish the joy of exploration that propelled these seven *Columbia* astronauts aloft—and that boldly survives them in the clear blue sky."

So ... what now for the American space program? There's still plenty of adventure, even without manned flights. NASA will send

a probe hurtling into Jupiter's orbit to learn more about the planet's origins. Another Mars rover will assess whether Mars is—or ever was—able to support microbial life, a step in determining the planet's habitability.

The Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer, a giant supercooled magnet, will probe for signs of mysterious "dark matter" that physicists believe pervades the universe. It could solve a cosmic mystery about the stuff of the universe, or, as one report suggested, it could become "a \$1.5 billion hood ornament on the international space station."

And what of all those astronauts-in-waiting, those intrepid souls who signed up to get slung into space on a glider bolted to a rocket? What happens to those with the right stuff ... at the wrong time? They'll have to be very patient. Or find another line of work.

We don't know when a generation of astronauts will push into

deep space, to Mars or beyond. But we do know it will happen. It will happen because peeling back barriers, despite the dangers, or maybe because of them ... is tangled deep in human DNA.

"A spacecraft is a metaphor of national inspiration," author Gregg Easterbrook wrote in *Time* magazine in 2003: "Majestic, technologically advanced, produced at dear cost and entrusted with precious cargo, rising above the constraints of Earth. The spacecraft carries our secret hope that there is something better out there—a world where we may someday go and leave the sorrows of the past behind."






Discovery, Atlantis and Endeavour will join *Columbia* and *Challenger* at rest.

The shuttle ends. Not the journey.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Mostly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲89° ▼77°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼81
Palau	Rain	▲84 ▼77
Yap	Rain	▲83 ▼76
Chuuk	Rain	▲83 ▼76
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼76
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲85 ▼74
Majuro	Cloudy	▲86 ▼77

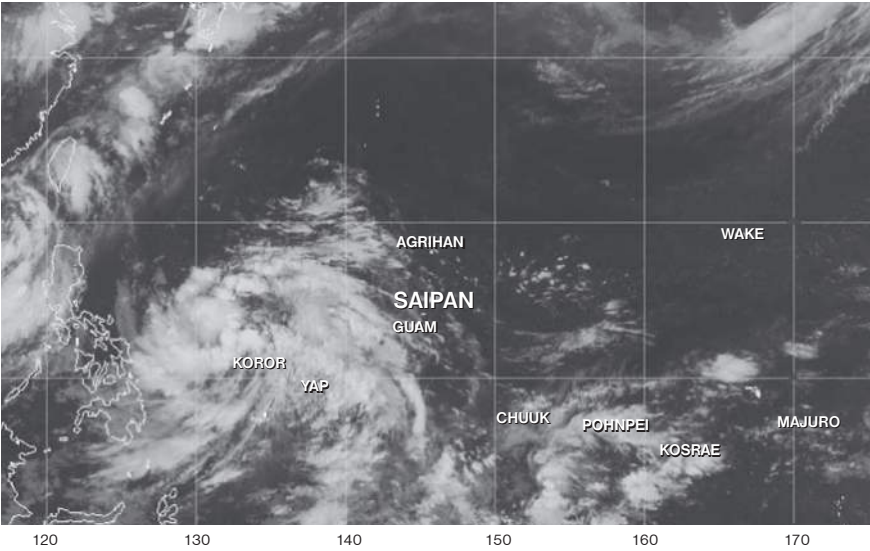
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲60 ▼54
Beijing	Thundershowers	▲92 ▼71
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲85 ▼82
Honolulu	Showers	▲85 ▼75
London	Showers	▲64 ▼55
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲79 ▼64
Manila	Thundershowers	▲88 ▼78
Melbourne	Showers	▲56 ▼44
Miami	Thundershowers	▲91 ▼80
New York	Showers	▲85 ▼69
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲82 ▼72
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲70 ▼55
Pusan	Thundershowers	▲77 ▼68
Rome	Sunny	▲86 ▼65
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲85 ▼58
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲77 ▼60
Seoul	Thunderstorms	▲81 ▼66
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲83 ▼71
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲90 ▼73

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
1:31 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
7:56 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
12:35 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
7:17 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends southeastward from a circulation centered northwest of Yap near 11N133E to end at 9N142E. The circulation JTWC invest area 99W remains the subject of a tropical cyclone formation alert. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found near Yap and Koror within an area bounded by a line from 17N130E to 18N141E to 7N146E to 3N130E back to 17N130E. Low-level convergence south of the monsoon trough is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms well southwest of Chuuk between the equator and 6N from 137E to 150E. Divergent flow near an upper-level low centered near 22N136E is triggering scattered showers and thunderstorms northwest of the Marianas between 18N and 22N from 134E to 143E. Converging trade-winds are generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near Pohnpei and Kosrae within an area bounded by a line from EQ152E to 8N154E to 8N160E to 4N165E to EQ159E back to EQ152E and northwest of Kwajalein within 80 miles of 11N166E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:48 AM	6:50 PM
Thursday	5:48 AM	6:50 PM
Friday	5:48 AM	6:50 PM
Saturday	5:49 AM	6:50 PM
Sunday	5:49 AM	6:51 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:32 PM	11:10 AM
Thursday		11:57 AM
Friday	12:07 AM	12:43 PM
Saturday	12:44 AM	1:31 PM
Saturday	1:22 AM	2:20 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- **ISLAND SNAPSHOTS**
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- **BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- **BUSINESS**
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- **SAMUT SARI**
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- **TRAVELOGUE**
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
 - Fax: (670) 235-3740
 - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 10, 2011

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM				GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	5K389	1:35pm	2:25pm	1, 4, 6
5K382	6:00pm	6:50pm	2, 5, 7	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily	C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:00am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily	DL288	8:05pm	12:35am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5	OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ604	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	OZ605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
MU590	4:30am	7:20am	2, 6	MU589	8:50pm	3:30am+1	1, 5
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 5	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 4	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	DL172/288	7:45am	12:35am+1	Daily via NRT
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT	OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
C09313/933	7:55am	8:40pm	3, 6 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM	C0892/9596	9:55pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09603/893	3:05pm	10:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7	C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:25am+1	3, 6 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG				HONG KONG-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	5K169	9:55am	5:00pm	2, 5, 7
5K168	3:25pm	6:35pm	1, 4, 6	OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
				C0910/9596	10:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana				ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)			

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
FRE 300	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Toyota hiring 3,000 to 4,000 temp workers in Japan

TOKYO (AP)—Toyota said it will hire 3,000 to 4,000 temporary workers in Japan to be ready for a recovery in vehicle production as automakers bounce back from the March 11 earthquake and tsunami.

Toyota Motor Corp. will start recruiting the factory workers in July, as production is now gradually recovering and expected to surge by October, company spokesman Shigehiko Okamura said Tuesday.

Production at Toyota and other Japanese automakers dived after the disaster because of a shortage of key parts from suppliers in the northeastern region devastated by the magnitude-9.0 quake.

Auto manufacturing is expected to be back at pre-disaster levels in the latter half of the year.

Toyota, which employs 69,000 people in Japan, now has about 950 temporary assembly line workers, after not renewing contracts that ran out after the disaster.

Temporary workers are on a different, more flexible contract from other employees to adjust to

production fluxes and save costs. The practice is common at Japanese plants, although it has sometimes been criticized as unfair.

During its boom years peaking in 2005, Toyota had more than 11,000 such temporary line workers.

But Toyota's production was hurt, first by the global financial crisis in 2008, and then by massive global recalls that began two years ago.

The disaster, which killed more than 23,000 people, sent three nuclear reactors into meltdowns, causing a power crunch that may also hamper manufacturing.

Nissan Motor Co., whose domestic production has also been hurt by the disaster, said it will hire more assembly line workers to keep up with recovering demand.

Honda Motor Co., which had to let go of all its temporary line workers after the disaster, is also looking to hire them back, and add workers, as the parts shortage gets fixed, it said.

Nissan and Honda did not yet have a number for the workers getting hired in coming months.



AP
People walk in the showroom of Toyota Motor's Tokyo headquarters in Tokyo, Friday, June 10, 2011.

Wal-Mart needs to press harder on advancing women

NEW YORK (AP)—Wal-Mart scored a big victory on Monday when the Supreme Court threw out the largest sex-discrimination case in U.S. history. Still, the nation's biggest private employer has been forced to address the issues raised in the suit.

Since the sex-bias lawsuit was given class action status in 2004 on behalf of 1.6 million women, Wal-Mart Stores Inc. has set up a women's council that represents each of the overseas markets and focused training and other efforts on advancing women into management roles. As a result, Wal-Mart says the percent-

age of entry and midlevel women managers has increased over the past five years from 38.8 percent to 41.2 percent.

During a conference call with journalists Monday, Gisel Ruiz, executive vice president of People at Wal-Mart's U.S. stores, said that she has seen the advancement opportunities grow for women, who make up 57 percent of the Bentonville, Ark. company's workforce. She noted that Wal-Mart has created specific training and mentoring programs to help prepare women for opportunities at all levels in the company.

For example, the women's council, which is made up of

about 20 executive women, was started in 2009 and meets periodically during the year; it offers guidance to the top leaders of each of the country's divisions on everything from training and development to promotions. Ruiz says the company also has training that helps women develop such skills as negotiating with peers and suppliers.

"I have been part of that development," said Ruiz, who started as a management trainee 19 years ago. "This will continue."

The Wal-Mart lawsuit, citing what are now dated figures from 2001, said that women are grossly underrepresented

among managers, holding just 14 percent of store manager positions compared with more than 80 percent of lower-ranking supervisory jobs that are paid by the hour. Wal-Mart had responded that women in its retail stores made up two-thirds of all employees and two-thirds of all managers in 2001.

Some analysts say Wal-Mart is moving in the right direction, but the company has a ways to go. They note that there is only one woman among CEO Mike Duke's 11 direct reports: Susan Chambers, executive vice president of the company's people division.

Coming soon to the Internet: The.whatever address

SINGAPORE (AP)—A quarter-century after the creation of ".com," the agency that assigns Internet addresses is loosening its rules and allowing suffixes named after brands, hobbies, political causes and just about anything else.

Under guidelines approved Monday, Apple could register addresses ending in ".ipad," Citi and Chase could share ".bank" and environmental groups could go after ".eco." Japan could have ".com" in Japanese.

It's the biggest change to the system of Internet addresses since it was created in 1984.

More than 300 suffixes are available today, but only a handful, such as the familiar ".net" and ".com," are open for general use worldwide. Hundreds of new suffixes could be established by late next year, thousands in years to come.

"This is the start of a whole new phase for the Internet," said Peter Dengate Thrush, chairman of the Internet Corporation for Assigned

Names and Numbers, the California nonprofit organization in charge of Internet addresses.

The novelty addresses will be costly—\$185,000 to apply and \$25,000 a year to maintain one. A personal address with a common suffix such as ".com" usually costs less than \$10 a year.

ICANN says it costs tens of millions of dollars to write the guidelines for suffixes, review applications and resolve any disputes. Even with the hefty fees, the organization says it

plans only to break even. It's also setting aside up to \$2 million to subsidize applications from developing countries.

The expansion plan, which runs about 350 pages, took six years to develop.

Before 1998, the United States, which paid for most of the early Internet, was in charge of handing out Internet suffixes. ICANN, which has board members from every inhabited continent, was a way to take the administrative burden off the U.S. government.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

FDA to issue new graphic cigarette warning labels

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—Coming to a store near you: nine more reasons not to smoke. In the most significant change to U.S. cigarette packs in 25 years, the Food and Drug Administration on Tuesday is set to release nine new warning labels that will depict in graphic detail the negative health effects of tobacco use. Among the possible images are rotting and diseased teeth and gums and a man with a tracheotomy smoking. The labels will take up the top half of a pack—both front and back—of cigarette packs. Warning labels also must appear in advertisements and constitute 20 percent of an ad. Cigarette makers have until the fall of 2012 to comply.

Study: Docs overtesting for cervical cancer virus

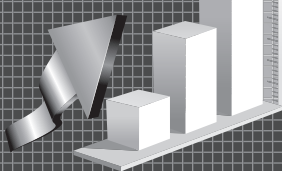
WASHINGTON (AP)—Too many doctors are testing the wrong women, or using the wrong test, for a virus that causes cervical cancer. The days of one-size-fits-all screening for cervical cancer are long gone. How often to

get a Pap smear—and whether to be tested for the cancer-causing HPV virus at the same time—now depend on your age and other circumstances. But a government study reports Monday that a surprising number of doctors and clinics aren't following guidelines from major medical groups on how to perform HPV checks, suggesting a lot of women are getting unnecessary tests.

Wireless network outlines plans to protect GPS

WASHINGTON (AP)—LightSquared, a Virginia-based company that plans to build a nationwide wireless broadband network, is proposing to adapt its network so as not to interfere with GPS systems. The company plans to move some of its operations to a different slice of airwaves and to transmit signals at lower power levels to ensure that its network would not interfere with GPS systems that rely on nearby wireless spectrum. The company outlined its intentions Monday amid mounting concern that its new network would cripple GPS systems used for everything from aviation to public safety to military operations.

STOCK PORTFOLIO



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
12,080.40	1,278.36	2,629.66
76.02	6.86	13.18
0.63%	0.54%	0.50%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms	Australian Dollar	0.9463	Indian Rupee	44.9188	Singapore Dollar	1.2351
	British Pound	0.6163	Indonesian Rupiah	8,600.5	South Korean Won	1,078.7
	Canadian Dollar	0.9780	Japanese Yen	80.2015	Swiss Franc	0.8437
	Chinese Yuan	6.4684	Malaysian Ringgit	3.0318	Taiwan Dollar	28.977
	Euro	0.6970	New Zealand Dollar	1.2334	Thailand Baht	30.55

Nation

US troops coming home? Obama to say on Wednesday

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama will announce the critical next steps in America's decade-long war in Afghanistan on Wednesday, outlining both a plan to start bringing thousands of U.S. troops home next month and a broader withdrawal blueprint aimed at giving Afghans control of their own security in 2014.

But even as Obama finalizes those plans, there are divisions in his administration, with military leaders favoring only a gradual reduction in troops but other advisers advocating a significant decrease in the coming months.

Administration officials say Obama is still working through the details on how many troops will start leaving Afghanistan in July, his self-imposed deadline for beginning the drawdown. He is considering a range of options presented to him last week by Gen. David Petraeus, the top U.S. and NATO commander in Afghanistan.

"He's finalizing his decision. He's reviewing his options," White House spokesman Jay Carney said Monday.

Obama is expected to make Wednesday's announcement in Washington. On Thursday, he will visit troops at Fort Drum, the upstate New York military base that is home to the 10th Mountain Division, one of the most frequently deployed divisions to Afghanistan and Iraq.

While much of the attention is focused on how many troops will leave Afghanistan next month, the more telling aspects of Obama's decision center on what happens after July, particularly how long the president plans to keep the 30,000 surge forces he sent in 2009 in the country.

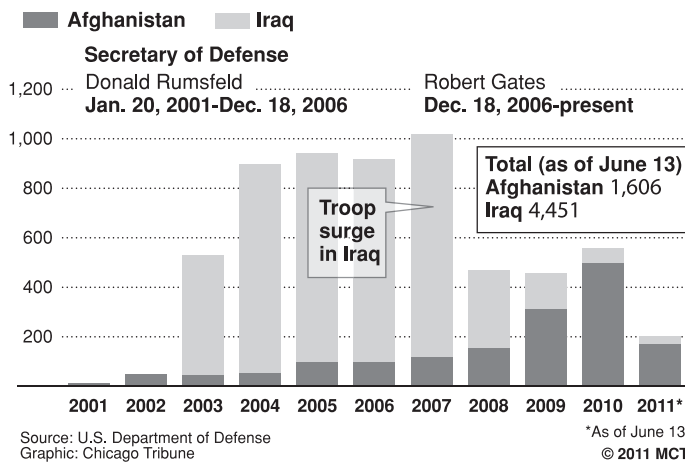
There is a growing belief that the president must at least map out the initial withdrawal of the surge troops when he addresses the public. But whether those forces should come out over the next eight to 12 months or slowly trickle out over a longer time is hotly debated.

Military commanders want to keep as many of those forces in Afghanistan for as long as possible, arguing that too fast a withdrawal could undermine the fragile security gains in the fight against the Taliban insurgency

War emphasis change

Outgoing Defense Secretary Robert Gates' tenure has been marked by a sharp reduction in hostilities in Iraq and an increase in U.S. casualties in Afghanistan.

Yearly U.S. troop deaths by conflict



in Afghanistan, the al-Qaida training ground for the Sept. 11 attacks. There are also concerns about pulling out a substantial number of U.S. forces as the heightened summer fighting season gets under way.

Retiring Defense Secretary Robert Gates has said he believes the initial drawdown should be "modest." But other advisers are backing a more significant withdrawal that starts

in July and proceeds steadily through the following months. That camp believes the slow, yet steady, security gains in Afghanistan, combined with the death of Osama bin Laden and U.S. success in dismantling much of the al-Qaida network in the country give the president an opportunity to make larger reductions this year.

There is also growing political pressure on Capitol Hill for

a more significant withdrawal. Twenty-seven senators, Democrats as well as Republicans, sent Obama a letter last week pressing for a shift in Afghanistan strategy and major troop cuts.

"Given our successes, it is the right moment to initiate a sizable and sustained reduction in forces, with the goal of steadily redeploying all regular combat troops," the senators wrote. "The costs of prolonging the war far outweigh the benefits."

There is broad public support for starting to withdraw U.S. troops. According to an Associated Press-GfK poll last month, 80 percent of Americans say they approve of Obama's decision to begin withdrawal of combat troops in July and end U.S. combat operations in Afghanistan by 2014. Just 15 percent disapprove.

Obama has tripled the number of U.S. forces in Afghanistan since taking office, bringing the total there to about 100,000. The 30,000 troop surge he announced at the end of 2009 came with the condition that he would start bringing forces home in July 2011.

ACROSS THE NATION

Police: Gambling mom left girl, 3, alone in motel

FIFE, Wash. (AP)—Police say a 3-year-old girl was left alone at in a Washington state motel room while her mother gambled at a casino. Seattle television station KOMO reports that police were called to the Fife motel about 2 a.m. Monday when the manager found the girl wandering alone in the parking lot. The mother and her boyfriend returned about 5:30 a.m. and said they had been at a casino and lost track of time, according to reports. The mother was arrested for investigation of child abandonment and the boyfriend for investigation of drug offenses. The child is in state care.

Las Vegas prepares for rave after latest death

LAS VEGAS (AP)—The death of a Texas teenager during an electronic music party plagued by drug arrests is drawing fresh attention to Las Vegas' decision to embrace the multi-day festival a year after it was banned in Los Angeles. Andrew Graf, 19, died and more than two dozen people were treated at hospitals for drug, alcohol and heat-related problems after the Electric Daisy Carnival in Dallas on Saturday, officials there said. The cause of death was pending toxicology results. It's the second death tied to the event in as many years. The rave was shunned in Los Angeles last year following a 15-year-old girl's fatal drug overdose. That party also resulted in more than 226 people receiving emergency medical treatment and 114 arrests for misconduct, drug possession and other charges.

Sand shortage causes concern for flood fighters

ST. JOSEPH, Mo. (AP)—The supply of sand used to fill hundreds of thousands of bags needed to fight off the swollen Missouri River is running low after weeks of relentless flooding. It's a problem that could get worse as the river is expected to remain high through August, making it unsafe to gather sand from the easiest place to get it: the river itself. The sand shortage comes as the bloated river rose to within 18 inches of forcing the shutdown of Cooper Nuclear Plant at Brownville, Neb. It stopped and ebbed slightly Monday, a reprieve caused by levee breaches in northwest Missouri. Flooding is a concern all along the river because of the massive amounts of water that the Army Corps of Engineers has released from six dams. Any significant rain could worsen the flooding especially if it falls in Nebraska, Iowa or Missouri, which are downstream of the dams.

KBR worker says she was drugged and raped in Iraq

HOUSTON (AP)—A Texas woman tearfully told jurors Monday that she was "scared to death" and held against her will by her employer after being drugged and sexually assaulted in Iraq at the hands of co-workers for military contractor KBR Inc.

Jamie Leigh Jones, 26, is one of several women who worked for KBR and former parent Halliburton Co. who say they were sexually assaulted or harassed while working for the companies in Iraq.

Jones says she was raped in 2005 while working for KBR at Camp Hope, Baghdad. She has sued KBR, Halliburton and a former KBR firefighter, Charles Bortz, whom she says was one of her rapists. The Houston-based companies and Bortz deny Jones' allegations.

Bortz's attorney tried to discredit Jones' claims by suggesting to jurors that she has a history of making false accusations of sexual harassment. Bortz, who has not been charged, filed a countersuit against Jones that the jury also will decide at the trial.

Jones said she is unable to name her other alleged attackers because of her limited memory of the incident.

During her often tearful testimony, Jones said she had been drinking with a group of KBR firefighters outside her barracks before she was raped.

The Associated Press usually doesn't identify people alleging sexual assault, but Jones' face and name have been in media reports and she has promoted



Jamie Leigh Jones, center, pauses before answering a question as her husband, Kallan Daigle, right, and attorney Todd Kelly, stand with her outside the federal courthouse Tuesday, June 14, 2011, in Houston.

her case on her own website.

"One of the firefighters, he handed me the drink. He said, 'Don't worry I saved all the ruf-

fies for Dubai,'" Jones testified, referring to the sedative Rohypnol, widely known as a "date-rape drug. She says it was used

to drug her before the attack.

Jones said she woke up the next morning in her room and discovered she was naked, sore

and had bruises and scratches on her thighs and wrists.

She said he had no memory of what happened to her. She said she found Bortz in the room with her and he told her that they had had sex the night before.

"I was putting the pieces together. I knew I had been raped," Jones said as she cried.

Jones' suit claims she was raped in her room by Bortz and several other firefighters.

She told jurors she later had a friend take her to get medical treatment.

Jones testified that after being examined by a military doctor, several KBR officials were crass toward her and tried to bully her into giving a statement about what happened, then locked her in a trailer watched over by armed guards with no food or water or way to call her family.

Panel: Problems with oceans multiplying, worsening

WASHINGTON (AP)—The health of the world's oceans is declining much faster than originally thought—under siege from pollution, overfishing and other man-made problems all at once—scientists say in a new report.

The mix of interacting ingredients is in place for a mass extinction in the world's oceans, said a report by a top panel of scientists that will be presented to the United Nations on Tuesday.

The report says the troubles

from global warming and other factors are worse when they combine with each other. Factors include dead zones from farm run-off, an increase in acidity from too much carbon dioxide, habitat destruction and melting sea ice, along with overfishing.

"Things seem to be going wrong on several different levels," said Carl Lundin, director of global marine programs at the International Union for Conservation of Nature, which helped produce the report with the International Programme

on the State of the Ocean. The conclusions follow an international meeting this spring in England to discuss the fate of the world's oceans.

Some of the changes affecting the world's seas—all of which have been warned about individually in the past—are happening faster than the worst case scenarios that were predicted just a few years ago, the report said.

"It was a more dire report than any of us thought because we look at our own little issues,"

Lundin said in an interview. "When you put them all together, it's a pretty bleak situation."

The combination of problems suggests there's a brewing worldwide die-off of species that would rival past mass extinctions, scientists said in the document. Coral deaths alone would be considered a mass extinction, according to study chief author Alex Rogers of the University of Oxford. A single bleaching event in 1998 killed one-sixth of the world's tropical coral reefs.

Asia

Reports: Japanese leader Kan pushed to resign soon

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan, criticized for his handling of the tsunami disaster and the country's sluggish economy, is under pressure to resign next month after budget bills are passed by parliament, reports said Monday.

Kan is being pushed by senior members of his party to step down after the passage of a second extra budget for the current fiscal year, which ends in March 2012, according to the Kyodo News agency and public broadcaster NHK.

Passage is expected in mid-July.

Kyodo and NHK said Kan is expected to announce details of his intentions soon, after meeting with the party leadership.



Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan walks out of his official residence in Tokyo Monday, June 20, 2011. AP

NHK said it is not clear whether he will agree to step down next month or try to hold on longer.

Kan has said he is willing to resign after the country's recovery from the disaster takes hold, but has not specified when.

No clear successor has pulled away from a pack of potential replacements, though the Japanese media have focused on Finance Minister Yoshihiko Noda, a fiscal expert who shares many of Kan's policies.

Kan's resignation would be an embarrassment to his ruling Democratic Party of Japan, but his rivals in the party apparently believe it would be better off without him at the helm.

Kan has been under increasing pressure to resign because

of his perceived lack of leadership following the March 11 earthquake and tsunami that devastated the country's northern coastline and left about 23,000 people dead or missing.

Damage is estimated at \$300 billion, making it the most expensive natural disaster in history.

He has also been hammered for his handling of the crisis at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant, which was severely damaged by the tsunami.

But Kan was deeply unpopular even before the disasters as he struggled to find policies to boost the economy, lower unemployment and deal with the public debt.

Kan assumed office just

over a year ago. Japan has had five prime ministers in the past four years, and its parliament is mired in gridlock.

The disasters have been a major test for Kan.

Factories throughout the region were damaged, leading to shortages of parts and components for automakers and other manufacturers. Consumer spending has plunged and the crippled nuclear power plant has caused widespread power shortages that could worsen in the months ahead.

Last week, the International Monetary Fund slashed its outlook for Japan, predicting its economy will shrink 0.7 percent this year instead of growing 1.4 percent.

Rare US missile attacks kill 12 in NW Pakistan

PARACHINAR, Pakistan (AP)—Suspected U.S. drones fired missiles at a vehicle and a house in northwest Pakistan, killing 12 people Monday in a rare attack in an area where some of NATO's fiercest enemies have reportedly traveled, Pakistani officials said.

The first attack in the Kurram tribal area hit a vehicle, killing five people, said Noor Alam, a local government official. As tribesmen rushed to the scene, the vehicle was struck again, killing two more people, he said. Minutes later, a suspected U.S. drone attacked a nearby house, killing five people, Alam said.

Seven of the 12 people killed in the attacks were Afghan militants whose bodies were taken across the border to be buried, Alam said. The attacks were confirmed by two Pakistani intelligence officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to reporters.

The Obama administration has dramatically stepped up covert CIA drone attacks against militants in Pakistan, but there have only been a handful of strikes by the missile-firing pilotless planes in the Kurram tribal area. Monday's strikes could indicate an expansion of the program.

Most of the recent drone strikes have taken place in North Waziristan, an important sanctuary for the Haqqani network, which U.S. military officials have said is the most dangerous militant group battling foreign forces in Afghanistan.

The U.S. has repeatedly asked Pakistan to launch an offensive against the network in North Waziristan, but the military has said that its forces are stretched too thin by other operations in the tribal areas.

Local tribesmen said late last year that the Haqqani network cut a deal with Shiite Muslim militias in Kurram to allow the militants to cross through the

area on their way to fighting in Afghanistan. The route would help them avoid the drone attacks that have rained down on North Waziristan.

Drone attacks are extremely unpopular in Pakistan and have generated tension between Washington and Islamabad, which increased following the U.S. raid that killed Osama bin Laden last month and humiliated the Pakistani government.

Around 1,000 tribesmen held a protest against drone strikes Monday in Miran Shah, one of the main towns in North Waziristan. The rally was organized by a pro-Taliban political party, Jamiat Ulema Islam. The crowd shouted "Down with America" and threatened to block NATO supplies to Afghanistan if the drone attacks don't stop.

The U.S. refuses to publicly acknowledge drone attacks in Pakistan, but officials have said privately that they have killed senior Taliban and al-Qaida commanders.

Police: Pakistani girl forced to wear suicide vest

TIMERGARAH, Pakistan (AP)—Police said Monday that militants kidnapped a 9-year-old girl on her way to school and forced her to wear a suicide bomb vest. The girl and police said she managed to escape her captors as they directed her to attack a paramilitary checkpoint in northwest Pakistan.

Sohana Jawed, who is in third grade, said she was abducted near her home in the northwestern city of Peshawar on Saturday and taken to Lower Dir district, a four hours' drive away, where she was found Monday.

Police in Lower Dir presented Jawed at a news conference, where she told her story dressed in her blue and white school uniform. But police in Peshawar said they haven't received a complaint of a missing girl and haven't identified a resident with her name.

Initial police reports of security incidents in Pakistan are sometimes wrong.

Militants in the country have often used young boys to carry out attacks, but the use of young girls is rare.

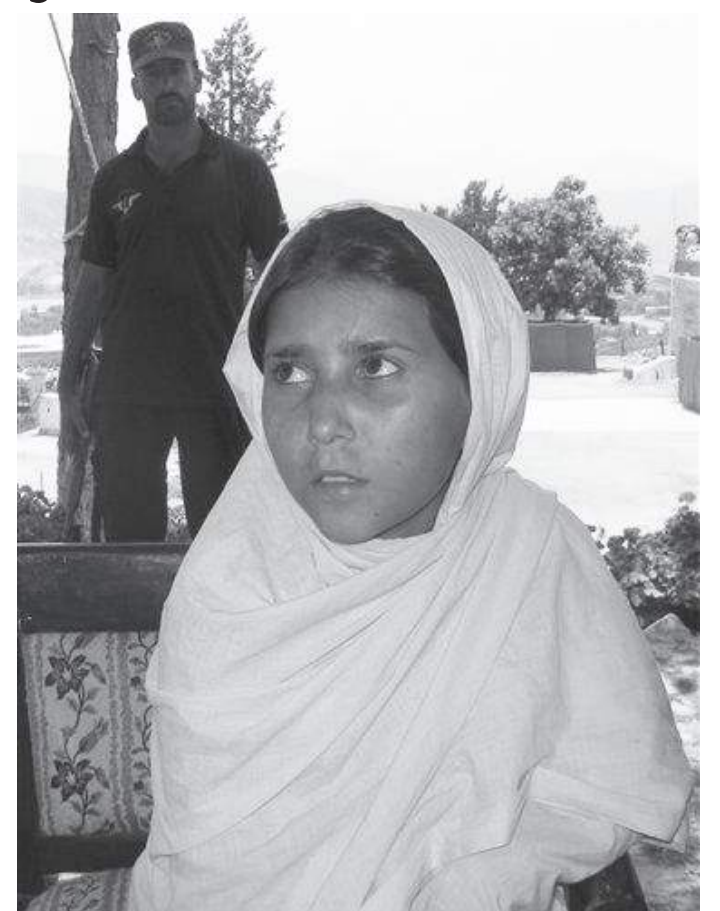
Jawed said during the news conference that she was grabbed by two women while on her way to school and forced into a car carrying two men.

One of the kidnappers put a handkerchief over her mouth that knocked her unconscious, Jawed said in a separate interview with a local TV station.

When she woke up and started crying, one of the women gave her cookies laced with something that again knocked her out, Jawed said. The next time she woke up she found herself in a strange home, she said.

"This morning, the women and men forced me to put on the heavy jacket and put me in the car again," said Jawed.

The suicide vest contained nearly 20 pounds (9 kilograms) of explosives and seemed to



Sohana Jawed, 9-year-old Pakistani girl, sits during a news conference in Lower Dir in Timergarah, Pakistan on Monday, June 20, 2011. AP

be designed to be set off remotely, Lower Dir police chief Salim Marwat told The Associated Press.

"Most likely it had to be detonated through a remote control since a minor was wearing it," he said.

The kidnappers brought her to a checkpoint run by the paramilitary Frontier Corps located about 6 miles (10 kilometers) outside Timergarah, the main town in Lower Dir district. When they got out of the car, she sprinted toward the paramilitary soldiers to show them what she was wearing, said Marwat.

"I got the chance to release my hand from the woman and run," said Jawed.

By the time the paramilitary soldiers realized what was happening, the kidnappers had es-

caped, said Marwat. Police have launched a search operation to find them, he said.

It's unclear why the kidnappers didn't detonate the suicide bomb vest after Jawed ran away. Marwat suggested they may have simply panicked and fled.

Asif Khan, the police chief in the area of Peshawar where Jawed said she lived and was kidnapped, Hashnagri, said they haven't received a complaint of a missing girl and haven't identified a resident with her name.

Police in Lower Dir plan to ask Jawed additional questions after she is examined by a psychiatrist, who is helping her cope with the trauma of her ordeal.

"Police will try to get more information from her once she gets normalized," said Marwat.

ASIA BRIEFS

Taiwan holds computer simulation of Chinese attack

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwan has begun its annual computer simulation of a Chinese attack, reflecting the island's anxiety over the continuing military threat China poses to it despite warming ties between the two sides. Taiwan's National Security Council said late Monday that President Ma Ying-jeou and senior Cabinet ministers would participate in the one-day computer war game Tuesday. The council said there would also be simulation of a major natural disaster to test the island's readiness in prevention and relief efforts. Taiwan and China split amid civil war in 1949. Beijing claims Taiwan as its own and vows to retake Taiwan, by force if necessary, despite Ma's monthslong efforts to bolster bilateral ties.

40 miles of dikes near overflowing from China rain

BEIJING (AP)—More than 40 miles (70 kilometers) of dikes are in danger of overflowing in an eastern Chinese province where floods have caused \$1.2 billion in losses, authorities said

Monday as the country neared a critical point in battling seasonal rains. Heavy rains pounded Zhejiang province over the weekend, and the level of a river that passes through Lanxi city has risen sharply, said Zhao Fayuan, deputy director of the provincial flood control headquarters. The level of Lanjiang river has now hit 110 feet (34 meters), the highest since 1966, the headquarters said.

Another top terror suspect on trial in Indonesia

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—One of Indonesia's top terrorism suspects went on trial Monday on charges of helping set up a terrorist training camp for a group that plotted attacks on foreigners and assassinations of the country's moderate Muslim leaders. The trial of Abu Tholut began days after a hard-line cleric was sentenced to 15 years in prison for supporting the same jihadist camp. Tholut, 50, is accused of procuring M16 assault rifles and other weapons for the camp, which was raided early last year in westernmost Aceh province, prosecutor Bambang Suharyadi told the West Jakarta District Court. Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty.

World

Syria president vows reform, critics shout 'Liar!'

BEIRUT (AP)—Syria's president promised a national dialogue Monday to consider political reforms, but his vague overtures to a pro-democracy uprising fell flat as protesters took to the streets shouting "Liar!" and demanding his ouster.

In only his third public appearance since the revolt erupted in March, Bashar Assad returned to a now-familiar refrain: He blamed the unrest on "saboteurs," offered modest potential reforms, but gave no sign he'd move toward ending the Assad family's political domination.

He clearly intends to try to ride out the wave of protests, showing the steely determination that has kept the Assads in power for 40 years. But the mobilized opposition appeared to be digging in as well, bracing for a showdown in one of the deadliest uprisings of the Arab Spring.

"We want only one thing: Toppling the regime!" read one banner among marchers in several cities Monday.

"The timeline is not in (Assad's) favor," Mideast scholar Shadi Hamid, at The

Expanding shock waves

The Syrian crackdown on the uprising against President Bashar Assad's rule threatens to destabilize the region.

Turkey Syria has caused a refugee crisis in Turkey, where thousands of Syrian civilians have fled

Iraq Shiite-led government has been silent on the unrest, though an expected crackdown in eastern Syria could send refugees across its borders



Israel Syria permitted Palestinian protesters to gather at the demarcation line with Israel in the Golan Heights

Lebanon Syria allowed its allies to form a dangerously lopsided government in Lebanon and has caused a refugee crisis there

Jordan Thousands of Syrian refugees have flooded the border with Jordan

Syria

Population	22.5 million	Median age	21.9 years						
Religion	<table><tr><td>Sunni Muslim</td><td>Other Muslim*</td><td>Christian</td></tr><tr><td>74%</td><td>16</td><td>10</td></tr></table>			Sunni Muslim	Other Muslim*	Christian	74%	16	10
Sunni Muslim	Other Muslim*	Christian							
74%	16	10							
Ethnicity	<table><tr><td>Arab</td><td>Others**</td></tr><tr><td>90%</td><td>10</td></tr></table>			Arab	Others**	90%	10		
Arab	Others**								
90%	10								

*Includes Alawite and Druze **Includes Kurds
Source: CIA World Factbook, Los Angeles Times
Graphic: Scott J. Wilson, Lorena Iniguez Elebee, Los Angeles Times

© 2011 MCT



In this photo released by the Syrian official news agency SANA, Syria's President, Bashar Assad delivers a speech in Damascus, Syria, Monday, June 20, 2011.

Brookings Doha Center in Qatar, told The Associated Press after what he called a "disappointing" speech. "The question is, how long can Assad sustain the current situation?"

Standing before a hand-picked crowd of supporters at Damascus University, in dark suit and tie, Assad presented himself as a secure—and beloved—leader intent on protecting his people. He likened some of the country's troubles to a "germ" that must be fought off.

He said a national dialogue would start soon and he was forming a committee to study constitutional amendments, including one that would open the way to forming political parties other than the ruling Baath Party. He acknowledged

demands for reform were legitimate, but he rehashed allegations that "saboteurs" were exploiting the movement.

A package of reforms was expected by September or the end of the year, he said.

But along with his promises came a warning that his downfall could usher in chaos.

"We want the people to back to reforms but we must isolate true reformers from saboteurs," Assad said, speaking from a podium flanked by six Syrian flags.

He said the country's economy might collapse unless the unrest ends, calling that "the most dangerous thing we face in the coming period," a message aimed at his supporters in the business community.

Other besieged dictators

across the Middle East—notably Egypt's Hosni Mubarak—used the same argument as they

WORLD BRIEFS

Lawyer says Egypt's Mubarak may have cancer

CAIRO (AP)—Ousted Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak was treated last year for cancer in his gallbladder and pancreas, and may be suffering a recurrence that spread to his stomach, his defense lawyer said Monday. However, two senior Egyptian medical officials—one of them the head of Mubarak's team of doctors—said he does not have the disease. Mubarak, 83, has been hospitalized since early April. He is set to face trial in August on charges he ordered the killings of protesters during the 18-day uprising that ousted him on Feb. 11. A conviction could carry the death penalty and activists suspect he may be using health problems as a ruse to sway public opinion and perhaps even win amnesty.

Reports: 44 killed in Russian passenger jet crash

MOSCOW (AP)—Russian news agencies are reporting 44 people have been killed in a passenger jet crash in northwestern Russia. RIA Novosti and ITAR-Tass are citing Emergencies Ministry officials as saying the plane crash-landed on a highway en route to the city of Petrozavodsk from Moscow. They say the Russian-made Tu-134 jet landed a few hundred yards (meters) short of the runway. They say eight people who survived the crash are in critical condition

sought to cling to power during the Arab Spring, warning of chaos in their wake. In Syria, the warning has a special resonance, given the country's volatile mix of ethnic groups and religious minorities.

The opposition estimates more than 1,400 Syrians have been killed and 10,000 detained as Assad unleashed his military and security forces to crush the protest movement that erupted in March, inspired by the revolutions in Tunisia and Egypt, and that spread to region after region.

Assad, 45, who inherited power in 2000 after the death of his father, President Hafez Assad, previously made a series of overtures to try to ease the growing outrage, lifting the decades-old emergency laws that give the regime a free hand to arrest people without charge, and granting Syrian nationality to thousands of Kurds, a long-ostracized minority. But the concessions did nothing to sap the movement's momentum, being dismissed as either symbolic or coming far too late.

in hospital. Earlier reports put the toll at 40.

Beatriz strengthens to hurricane, aims for Mexico

MIAMI (AP)—The National Weather Service says Tropical Storm Beatriz has reached hurricane strength, as its heavy rains and strong winds have begun pounding resort beaches on Mexico's Pacific coast. Authorities closed the popular tourist ports of Acapulco and Manzanillo ahead of the hurricane's arrival. The U.S. National Hurricane Center said Beatriz had sustained winds of about 75 miles per hour (121 kph) and is expected to brush over Mexico's southwestern coast before heading back out to sea. Beatriz is located about 85 miles (140 kms) southeast of Manzanillo and moving northwest at 12 mph (19 kph).

Earthquake rattles northern Chile

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP)—A 6.5-magnitude earthquake rattled a sparsely populated area of northern Chile on Monday, but there were no immediate reports of damage or injuries. The quake's epicenter was located about 55 miles (90 kilometers) west of Calama in northern Chile, the U.S. Geological Survey said. The earthquake at 12:35 p.m. local time (12:35 p.m. EDT; 1635 GMT) lasted about a minute and was felt most strongly in northern cities including Iquique, Alto Hospicio and Pica.

Libya says NATO airstrike kills 15 west of capital

SURMAN, Libya (AP)—Libya's government said a NATO airstrike west of Tripoli early Monday destroyed a large family compound belonging to a close associate of Moammar Gadhafi, killing at least 15 people, including three children. It was the second claim of civilian deaths at a home in as many days.

The alliance said the strike Monday hit a "command and control" center.

Gadhafi's regime has repeatedly accused NATO of targeting civilians in an attempt to rally support against international intervention into Libya's civil war. The alliance insists it tries to avoid killing civilians.

Libyan government spokesman Moussa Ibrahim said NATO bombs struck the compound belonging to Khoweidi al-Hamidi outside the city of Surman, some 40 miles (60 kilo-

meters) west of Tripoli, around 4 a.m. local time Monday.

NATO initially said it had not hit any targets in the Surman area overnight. But the alliance later released a statement saying it conducted a "precision strike" near the town early Monday "on a legitimate military target—a command and control node which was directly involved in coordinating systematic attacks" on Libyan citizens.

The commander of NATO's Libya operation, Lt. Gen. Charles Bouchard, said the "strike will greatly degrade the Gadhafi regime's forces' ability to carry out their barbaric assaults on the Libyan people."

"Wherever Gadhafi tries to hide his command and control centers, we will find them," he said.

NATO officials have repeatedly said the alliance does not target individuals. It could not

confirm reports of casualties in Monday's strike but said it regrets any loss of civilian life.

Al-Hamidi is a longtime regime insider who took part in the 1969 coup that brought Gadhafi to power. He reportedly commanded a battalion that crushed rebels in the nearby western city of Zawiya in March, and his daughter is married to one of Gadhafi's sons, Saadi.

Ibrahim said al-Hamidi escaped the airstrikes unharmed but that three children, two of them al-Hamidi's grandchildren, were among the 15 people killed. Officials said he was inside a still-intact building at the time of the strike.

"They (NATO) are targeting civilians. ... The logic is intimidation," Ibrahim said. "They want Libyans to give up the fight ... they want to break our spirit."

He warned that killing civilians risked creating a "hateful

generation" of young Libyans who "will make the world a very dangerous place."

Foreign journalists based in the Libyan capital were taken by government officials to the walled compound, where at least two buildings had been blasted to rubble. A pair of massive craters could be seen in the dusty ground, and rescue workers with sniffer dogs were scouring the rubble in search of people. The smell of smoke was still in the air.

Bombs also ripped holes through the top of a large tent sheltering cars, smashing the floor and mangling vehicles inside. The windows were shattered in a circular sitting room containing old framed photos said to be of al-Hamidi, and a deer kept in an enclosure with other animals had a broken antler and was bleeding from the mouth.

Focus

US nuclear regulators weaken safety rules

By JEFF DONN
AP NATIONAL WRITER

LACEY TOWNSHIP, New Jersey (AP)—Federal regulators have been working closely with the nuclear power industry to keep aging American reactors operating within safety standards by repeatedly weakening those standards, or simply failing to enforce them, an investigation by The Associated Press has found.

Time after time, officials at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission have decided that original regulations were too strict, arguing that safety margins could be eased without peril, according to records and interviews.

The result? Rising fears that these accommodations by the NRC are significantly undermining safety—and inching the reactors closer to an accident that could harm the public and jeopardize the future of nuclear power in the United States.

Examples abound. When valves leaked, more leakage was allowed—up to 20 times the original limit. When rampant cracking caused radioactive leaks from steam generator tubing, an easier test of the tubes was devised, so plants could meet standards.

Failed cables. Busted seals. Broken nozzles, clogged screens, cracked concrete, dented containers, corroded metals and rusty underground pipes—all of these and thousands of other problems linked to aging were uncovered in the AP's yearlong investigation. And all of them could escalate dangers in the event of an accident.

Yet despite the many problems linked to aging, not a single official body in government or industry has studied the overall frequency and potential impact on safety of such breakdowns in recent years, even as the NRC has extended the licenses of dozens of reactors.

Industry and government officials defend their actions, and insist that no chances are being taken. But the AP investigation found that with billions of dollars and 19 percent of America's electricity supply at stake, a cozy relationship prevails between the industry and its regulator, the NRC.

Records show a recurring pattern: Reactor parts or systems fall out of compliance with the rules. Studies are conducted by the industry and government, and all agree that existing standards are "unnecessarily conservative."

Regulations are loosened, and the reactors are back in compliance.

"That's what they say for everything, whether that's the case or not," said Demetrios Basdekas, an engineer retired from the NRC. "Every time you turn around, they say 'We have all this built-in conservatism.'"

The ongoing crisis at the stricken, decades-old Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear facility in Japan has focused attention on the safety of plants elsewhere in the world; it prompted the NRC to look at U.S. reactors, and a report is due in July.

But the factor of aging goes far beyond the issues posed by the disaster at Fukushima.

Commercial nuclear reactors in the United States were designed and licensed for 40 years. When the first ones were being built in the 1960s and 1970s, it was expected that they would be replaced with improved models long before those licenses expired.

But that never happened. The 1979 accident at Three Mile Island, massive



This photo made available by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission shows a 10-gallon-per-minute leak which sprung Oct. 19, 2007, in rusted piping that carried essential service water at the Byron nuclear plant in Illinois. The water is needed to cool the reactor in an emergency. The plant was immediately taken offline for repairs.

cost overruns, crushing debt and high interest rates ended new construction proposals for several decades.

Instead, 66 of the 104 operating units have been relicensed for 20 more years, mostly with scant public attention. Renewal applications are under review for 16 other reactors.

By the standards in place when they were built, these reactors are old and getting older. As of today, 82 reactors are more than 25 years old.

The AP found proof that aging reactors have been allowed to run less safely to prolong operations. As equipment has approached or violated safety limits, regulators and reactor operators have loosened or bent the rules.

Last year, the NRC weakened the safety margin for acceptable radiation damage to reactor vessels—for a second time. The standard is based on a measurement known as a reactor vessel's "reference temperature," which predicts when it will become dangerously brittle and vulnerable to failure. Over the years, many plants have violated or come close to violating the standard.

As a result, the minimum standard was relaxed first by raising the reference temperature 50 percent, and then 78 percent above the original—even though a broken vessel could spill its radioactive contents into the environment.

"We've seen the pattern," said nuclear safety scientist Dana Powers, who

works for Sandia National Laboratories and also sits on an NRC advisory committee. "They're ... trying to get more and more out of these plants."

SHARPENING THE PENCIL

The AP collected and analyzed government and industry documents—including some never-before released. The examination looked at both types of reactor designs: pressurized water units that keep radioactivity confined to the reactor building and the less common boiling water types like those at Fukushima, which send radioactive water away from the reactor to drive electricity-generating turbines.

AP impact

Tens of thousands of pages of government and industry studies were examined, along with test results, inspection reports and regulatory policy statements filed over four decades. Interviews were conducted with scores of managers, regulators, engineers, scientists, whistleblowers, activists, and residents living near the reactors, which are located at 65 sites, mostly in the East and Midwest.

AP reporting teams toured some of the oldest reactors—the unit here at Oyster Creek, near the Atlantic coast 50 miles (80 kilometers) east of Philadelphia, and two units at Indian Point,

25 miles (40 kilometers) north of New York City along the Hudson River.

Called "Oyster Creak" by some critics because of its aging problems, this boiling water reactor began running in 1969 and ranks as the country's oldest operating commercial nuclear power plant. Its license was extended in 2009 until 2029, though utility officials announced in December that they'll shut the reactor 10 years earlier rather than build state-ordered cooling towers. Applications to extend the lives of pressurized water units 2 and 3 at Indian Point, each more than 36 years old, are under review by the NRC.

Unprompted, several nuclear engineers and former regulators used nearly identical terminology to describe how industry and government research has frequently justified loosening safety standards to keep aging reactors within operating rules. They call the approach "sharpening the pencil" or "pencil engineering"—the fudging of calculations and assumptions to yield answers that enable plants with deteriorating conditions to remain in compliance.

"Many utilities are doing that sort of thing," said engineer Richard T. Lahey Jr., who used to design nuclear safety systems for General Electric Co., which makes boiling water reactors. "I think we need nuclear power, but we can't compromise on safety. I think the vulnerability is on these older plants."

Added Paul Blanch, an engineer who

left the industry over safety issues but later returned to work on solving them: "It's a philosophical position that (federal regulators) take that's driven by the industry and by the economics: What do we need to do to let those plants continue to operate? They somehow sharpen their pencil to either modify their interpretation of the regulations, or they modify their assumptions in the risk assessment."

In public pronouncements, industry and government say aging is well under control. "I see an effort on the part of this agency to always make sure that we're doing the right things for safety. I'm not sure that I see a pattern of staff simply doing things because there's an interest to reduce requirements—that's certainly not the case," NRC chairman Gregory Jaczko said in an interview at agency headquarters in Rockville, Maryland.

Neil Wilmshurst, director of plant technology for the industry's Electric Power Research Institute, acknowledged that the industry and NRC often collaborate on research that supports rule changes. But he maintained that there's "no kind of misplaced alliance ... to get the right answer."

Yet agency staff, plant operators, and consultants paint a different picture in little-known reports, where evidence of industry-wide problems is striking:

■ The AP reviewed 226 preliminary notifications—alerts on emerging safety problems—issued by the NRC since 2005. Wear and tear in the form of clogged lines, cracked parts, leaky seals, rust and other deterioration contributed to at least 26 alerts over the past six years. Other notifications lack detail, but aging also was a probable factor in 113 additional alerts. That would constitute up to 62 percent in all. For example, the 39-year-old Palisades reactor in Michigan shut Jan. 22 when an electrical cable failed, a fuse blew, and a valve stuck shut, expelling steam with low levels of radioactive tritium into the air outside. And a one-inch crack in a valve weld aborted a restart in February at the LaSalle site west of Chicago.

■ One 2008 NRC report blamed 70 percent of potentially serious safety problems on "degraded conditions." Some involve human factors, but many stem from equipment wear, including cracked nozzles, loose paint, electrical problems, or offline cooling components.

■ Confronted with worn parts that need maintenance, the industry has repeatedly requested—and regulators have often allowed—inspections and repairs to be delayed for months until scheduled refueling outages. Again and again, problems worsened before they were fixed. Postponed inspections inside a steam generator at Indian Point allowed tubing to burst, leading to a radioactive release in 2000. Two years later, cracking was allowed to grow so bad in nozzles on the reactor vessel at the Davis-Besse plant near Toledo, Ohio, that it came within two months of a possible breach, the NRC acknowledged in a report. A hole in the vessel could release radiation into the environment, yet inspections failed to catch the same problem on the replacement vessel head until more nozzles were found to be cracked last year.

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Campus Life

RHS Buck Battalion changes hands

The Rota High School JROTC Buck Battalion held its change of command ceremony on June 3, 2011, at the school's gymnasium to honor the accomplishments of its outgoing commander, cadet Lt. Col. Blaine Sn. Mesngon, and to officially welcome the incoming battalion commander for the remainder of this school year, cadet Lt. Col. Ezra A. Barcinas.

This bi-annual event was witnessed by the entire Rota High School faculty and student body. Antenille M. Santos, an RHS alumna and a former Buck Battalion commander, was the inspirational speaker, while RHS principal Sharlene Manglona gave the opening remarks.

Cadet Maj. Jennilyn Dela Cruz served as the commander of cadets during the ceremony. The ceremony also paid tribute to the men and women who are serving in the nation's armed forces.

Others present at the ceremony were CNMI PTSA Advisory Council vice president Edita Taimanao, RHS PTA president Therese Hizon, RHS PTA vice president Mrs. Marla Barcinas, Lt. Col.



Incoming battalion commander cadet LTC Ezra A. Barcinas, left, and outgoing battalion commander cadet LTC Blaine Sn. Mesngon salute during the singing of the national anthem. Others in photo are Rota High School students.

Robert Gay and Phil Quitugua from the multi-school unit headquarters, as well as parents and family members.

The new chain of command immediately faced the challenge of hosting the CNMI Multiple School Unit JROTC

Cadet Leadership Challenge, which is currently being held on Rota. They have been aggressively planning, organizing, and coordinating the training sites for the Challenge, which is scheduled from June 17 to 23. The

training includes 150 cadets from all five high schools who will participate in various leadership positions and team building activities.

"This training will invariably result in the development of new skills and inter-island collaboration in numerous training events under a field environment.

"The Buck Battalion would like to express our profound appreciation to Lt. Col. Robert Gay, PSS MSU JROTC director of Army Instructions, for selecting the beautiful island of Rota as the training site. Additionally, we would like to extend our gratitude to Education Commissioner Rita Sablan for supporting this annual event, Mayor Melchor Mendiola for providing site support; and Maria S. Quitugua, principal for Dr. Rita Inos Junior High School, for the use of the campus as the campsite.

"We would also like to thank Ike Mendiola, Rota's professional videographer, for filming the change of command ceremony for the community's preview on Rota's local television channel. (PR)

Rota JROTC hosts Buck Military Ball

The Rota High School Buck Battalion held its 12th Military Ball on June 4, 2011, at the Rota Roundhouse. Cadets planned, organized, coordinated, and executed this formal event as part of the requirements of the 8th Brigade Cadet Command, in Fort Lewis Washington.

Guests included Mayor Melchor Mendiola and the first lady, Estrella, Board of Education vice chair Tanya King, Senate President Paul Manglona and his wife, Lydia, and Jovita Taimanao.

Also in attendance were Lt. Col. (retired) Robert Gay, director of Army Instruction for the CNMI Multiple School Unit, his MSU staff, as well as all the senior Army instructors from the Ayuyu, Dolphin, Manta Ray, and Stallion battalions and their respective cadet battalion commanders.

Mayor Mendiola, who gave the inspirational speech, commended the program for its service to Rota during community fiestas, events, and ceremonies.

The highlight of the evening was the entertainment provided by the Buck cadets, which included singers, dancers, and the Female Fancy Drill. Military ball chair cadet 1Lt. Zahra A. Frazier served as the mistress of ceremony.

Lt. Col. Gay served as the keynote speaker. During college, he participated in SROTC and was commissioned as an Infantry Second Lieutenant upon graduation. Prior to entering the Army he received two free agent football try-outs as a linebacker/fullback with the Pittsburgh Steelers and the New England Patriots. During his junior officer tenure he commanded five companies that included an Infantry company, Basic Training and United Nations Command billets. He was an Airborne Ranger and was assigned to the prestigious West Point Military Academy as one of the coach for the cadets on the Army Football Team. He also served as Battalion Executive Officer, and Division Inspector General. (PR)

Obama congratulates SSHS student on his graduation

John Raymond Belocora Sablan, who recently graduated from Saipan Southern High School, was honored with a personal congratulatory letter from U.S. President Barack Obama on his graduation.

A framed copy of Obama's letter, dated June 1, 2011, was presented to Sablan during his school's graduation rites.

In it, Obama tells Sablan: "The academic achievement you celebrate today, born of hard work and dedication, is the foundation for your future and that of our nation. ...Soon, you will stand at the helm of our country as you steer its course; I hope you are guided by the values and vision that brought you to this important moment.

"In America, you are the author of your own destiny, and this milestone is simply the beginning. You can make unique contributions that impact the lives of those around you, and your service to your community, our country, and the world can create a brighter tomorrow for us all. Our nation needs your daring, your energy, and your imagination in the days ahead."

Sablan is the son of Ronald P. Lamkin and Dr. Celia B. Lamkin of Saipan. "He

is a passionate, kind, loving, thoughtful, courteous, respectful and caring child. He likes to help other people and the community," said his proud mother.

Dr. Lamkin says that, as young as 8 years old, John has been participating in activities and awareness programs for people with disabilities in the CNMI and has helped in fundraising activities and assisted students with disabilities in their recreational activities.

"At the age of 12, John learned how to get my blood pressure, blood sugar level, heart rate, and give my medicines after I had a heart attack. He has been doing these since then. I can always depend on him because whenever I don't feel good, he knows which medicines to give me," Dr. Lamkin said.

During the awards ceremony prior to his graduation, Sablan was given the Community Service Learning Award for his exemplary performances as both a student and role model to the school's service learning program.

In addition, he received the first place award in the subject area of Health Occupations as well as the President's Education Award.



John Raymond Belocora Sablan receives the congratulatory letter of President Barack Obama from Saipan Southern High School principal Jesse Tudela during the graduation ceremony.

On June 16, 2011, Sablan completed the Nursing Assistantship Program of SSHS and was presented the Pillars of Nursing award. He was the president of this nursing program and was a National Honor Society member.

US

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TIME CRUMBLES THINGS

Nuclear plants are fundamentally no more immune to the incremental abuses of time than our cars or homes: Metals grow weak and rusty, concrete crumbles, paint peels, crud accumulates. Big components like 17-story-tall concrete containment buildings or 800-ton reactor vessels are all but impossible to replace. Smaller parts and systems can be swapped, but still pose risks as a result of weak maintenance and lax regulation or hard-to-predict failures. Even when things are fixed or replaced, the same parts or others nearby often fail later.

Even mundane deterioration at a reactor can carry harsh consequences.

For example, peeling paint and debris can be swept toward pumps that circulate cooling water in a reactor accident. A properly functioning containment building is needed to create air pressure that

helps clear those pumps. The fact is, a containment building could fail in a severe accident. Yet the NRC has allowed operators to make safety calculations that assume containment buildings will hold.

In a 2009 letter, Mario V. Bonaca, then-chairman of the NRC's Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, warned that this approach represents a decrease in the safety margin and makes a fuel-melting accident more likely. At Fukushima, hydrogen explosions blew apart two of six containment buildings, allowing radiation to escape from overheated fuel in storage pools.

Many photos in NRC archives—some released in response to AP requests under the federal Freedom of Information Act—show rust accumulated in a thick crust or paint peeling in long sheets on untended equipment at nuclear plants. Other breakdowns can't be observed or predicted, even with sophisticated analytic methods—especially for buried, hidden or hard-to-reach parts.

Industry and government reports are

packed with troubling evidence of unrelenting wear and repeated regulatory compromises.

Four areas stand out:

BRITTLE VESSELS: For years, operators have rearranged fuel rods to limit gradual radiation damage to the steel vessels protecting the core and to keep them strong enough to meet safety standards.

It hasn't worked well enough.

Even with last year's weakening of the safety margins, engineers and metal scientists say some plants may be forced to close over these concerns before their licenses run out unless, of course, new compromises with regulations are made. But the stakes are high: A vessel damaged by radiation becomes brittle and prone to cracking in certain accidents at pressurized water reactors, potentially releasing its radioactive contents into the environment.

LEAKY VALVES: Operators have repeatedly violated leakage standards for valves designed to bottle up ra-

dioactive steam in the event of earthquakes and other accidents at boiling water reactors.

Many plants have found they could not adhere to the general standard allowing each of these parts—known as main steam isolation valves—to leak at a rate of no more than 11.5 cubic feet (0.33 cubic meters) per hour. In 1999, the NRC decided to permit individual plants to seek amendments of up to 200 cubic feet per hour for all four steam valves combined.

But plants keep violating even those higher limits. For example, in 2007, Hatch Unit 2, in Baxley, Georgia, reported combined leakage of 574 cubic feet (16.26 cubic meters) per hour.

CRACKED TUBING: The industry has long known of cracking in steel alloy tubing originally used in the steam generators of pressurized water reactors. Ruptures were rampant in these tubes containing radioactive coolant; in 1993 alone, there were seven. Even today, as many as 18 reactors are still running on old generators.

Problems can arise even in a newer metal alloy, according to a report of a 2008 industry-government workshop.

CORRODED PIPING: Nuclear operators have failed to stop an epidemic of leaks in pipes and other underground equipment in damp settings. The country's nuclear sites have suffered more than 400 accidental radioactive leaks during their history, the activist Union of Concerned Scientists reported in September.

Plant operators have been drilling monitoring wells and patching hidden or buried piping and other equipment for several years to control an escalating outbreak.

Here, too, they have failed. Between 2000 and 2009, the annual number of leaks from underground piping shot up fivefold, according to an internal industry document obtained and analyzed by the AP.

The AP National Investigative Team can be reached at investigate@ap.org

Life & Style

‘HARRY POTTER’ STAR DANIEL RADCLIFFE:

It would be ‘self-defeating’ to reprise role

By GEOFF BOUCHER
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—What’s J.K. Rowling about to announce with the mysterious “Pottermore” project? Daniel Radcliffe says he’s in the dark on the topic, and, yes, he’s quite ready to say goodbye to the boy wizard at this point anyway.

“I know nothing about that whatsoever,” Radcliffe said of the cryptic new website that is meant to stir interest in the June 23 announcement of some new endeavor. “I’m sure that Jo will be writing a lot more in the coming years. I’m sure she has a lot more in her than we’ve read and a lot more stories to tell.”

And he added, with a bit of a chuckle: “As long as they don’t involve Harry, I’m quite happy to buy them.”

The was a great stir of interest in the muggle world in recent days with news coverage of the website, which is so far just a holding page with two owls, the word “Pottermore” and the signature of Rowling, the author who mesmerized readers the world over with the magical tales of an orphaned boy wizard, his friends and the dark forces aligned against them.

The bookshelf chronicles of Harry Potter reached a climax in 2007 with the seventh and reportedly final book, “Harry Pot-



Daniel Radcliffe as Harry Potter in Warner Bros. Pictures’ fantasy adventure, “Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1,” a Warner Bros. Pictures release.

ter and the Deathly Hallows,” and the Hollywood feature-film franchise draws to a close this summer with “Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2,” the eighth film, which opens in the U.S. and U.K. on July 15.

There’s plenty of speculation about the nature of “Pot-

termore,” but the most likely might be an MMORPG, an on-line fan-community experience or a hybrid of both. Rowling’s spokeswoman has stated that the project is “not a new book” and is not “directly related” to the impending “Potter” film.

That’s just fine with Rad-

cliffe, now in New York, where he is starring in a revival of Frank Loesser’s 1961 musical, “How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying” for the rest of the year. The reviews in the big city have ranged from sunny to sour, but—reached by phone on Friday a few hours be-

fore show time—the young star sounded more concerned about stage stamina than his standing with critics. “We’re doing well,” he said, “and now I just have to keep it up until January.”

Radcliffe has possessed—and been possessed by—the role of Potter for half his life,

and right now he’s experiencing an intense jumble of emotions. “It is bizarre; we’ve been talking about it for so long, and now it’s finally here.”

And yes, for the record, he’s absolutely ready to hang up the Hogwarts robe for good. But what about that notion of a later movie based on some new Rowling-penned adventure? Does Radcliffe harbor any secret wish to reconnect with his signature role sometime down the road?

“Not particularly. I think that would be a bit odd,” said the actor, who celebrates his 22nd birthday the week after the eighth film opens. “I’d be very skeptical about that. First of all, I don’t think that she will” write another Potter installment, “and second of all, oh, I don’t know, the idea of going back to something after 10 or 20 years? At that point, I will have worked 20 years to establish a career outside of it, and at that point to go back to it would feel a little self-defeating.”

Perhaps, but Radcliffe is already wise enough to know that you can never really say never. There may be some magic moment when someone offers him a magic wand and the perfect script. “I could feel completely different at that time, but at this moment, it feels like it would be strange and not the way it would or should go.”

Americans turn to gardening to save money

By LISA RATHKE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MONTPELIER, Vermont (AP)—Many of the millions of Americans who turned to gardening to save money during the recession appear to be sticking with it during the recovery as food prices remain high and interest in safe, fresh and local food grows nationwide.

Forty-three million U.S. households planned to grow at least some of their own food in 2009, a 19 percent increase from the estimated 36 million who did the year before, said the National Gardening Association, citing the most recent figures available. Spending on food gardening—including growing vegetables, fruit trees, berries and herbs—jumped 20 percent in one year to \$3 billion in 2009 and stayed at that level last year, said Bruce Butterfield, research director for the non-profit association.

“It’s a perfect storm for food gardening,” Butterfield said, noting the downturn coincided with growing interest nationwide in eating locally

produced food.

While the recession started in December 2007, he said the economy really “tanked” at the end of 2008, fueling the gardening boom the following year. And, Butterfield said he expects the trend to continue with the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s switch from a food pyramid representing its nutritional guidelines to a plate encouraging people to eat more fruits and vegetables, and people spending more time at home, either because they’re unemployed or avoiding expensive vacations.

“A lot of folks, I think they kind of look at the evening news or read the paper or read something online, saying ‘Jesus, this world is out of control and I can’t have any influence on what happens out there but, by God, I can control what happens in my backyard,’” he said.

Seed supplier W. Atlee Burpee & Co. said its sales of vegetables seeds and starter plants have jumped substantially in the past several years, with 30 percent growth in 2009, 15 percent to 20 percent growth last year and another bump in March.

The company based in Warm-ster, Pennsylvania, speculated recent rises in gas and produce prices have prompted more people to try to save money by growing their own food.

Ann Janda, 43, of Hinesburg, Vermont, estimated gardening saves her and her husband \$75 a month on groceries about eight months out of the year. They rarely buy any vegetables from June to August, relying on their 16-by-50-foot (5-by-16-meter) garden to feed them. In the fall, they use tomato preserves for a lot of what they cook, and they freeze and can vegetables to use in the winter—everything from pickles to tomato sauce, frozen peas, pesto and kale.

Janda, who planted her first garden when she moved out of the city four years ago, said it’s easy to “overspend” on supplies and equipment, but she and her husband try to do it as cheaply as possible. They use dead elm saplings from nearby woods as stakes, start most of their plants from seeds in reusable pots and trade seedlings with other gardeners. Their tools are a spade, shovel and hoe,

and their landlord tills the garden for them in exchange for vegetables later on.

“We are very economical gardeners and you can do that. You don’t have to buy all kinds of expensive equipment to have a nice garden,” said Janda, who learned a lot about gardening on the Internet and just completed a 13-week intensive master gardening course through the University of Vermont extension service. This year, the couple’s main expense was \$180 in compost.

But, Janda said savings isn’t the only reason she and her husband garden.

“It’s just so fun harvesting your own food,” she said, adding that one reason they haven’t bought a home yet is that they want one with suitable garden space with full sun.

“It’s a real issue because it’s a big part of my life now,” she said. “I couldn’t live without it.”

With more novice gardeners nationwide, teachers report classes are filling up. Food gardening classes in Chatham County, North Carolina, for example, have doubled in size in the past five years.



In this photo taken Wednesday, June 15, 2011, Ann Janda works in her vegetable garden in Hinesburg, Vt.

‘Jackass’ star Ryan Dunn dies in fiery Pa. crash

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—“Jackass” star Ryan Dunn, who along with his cast mates made Americans cringe and snicker through vulgar stunts in their multimillion-dollar TV and movie franchise, was killed early Monday in a fiery car crash. He was 34.

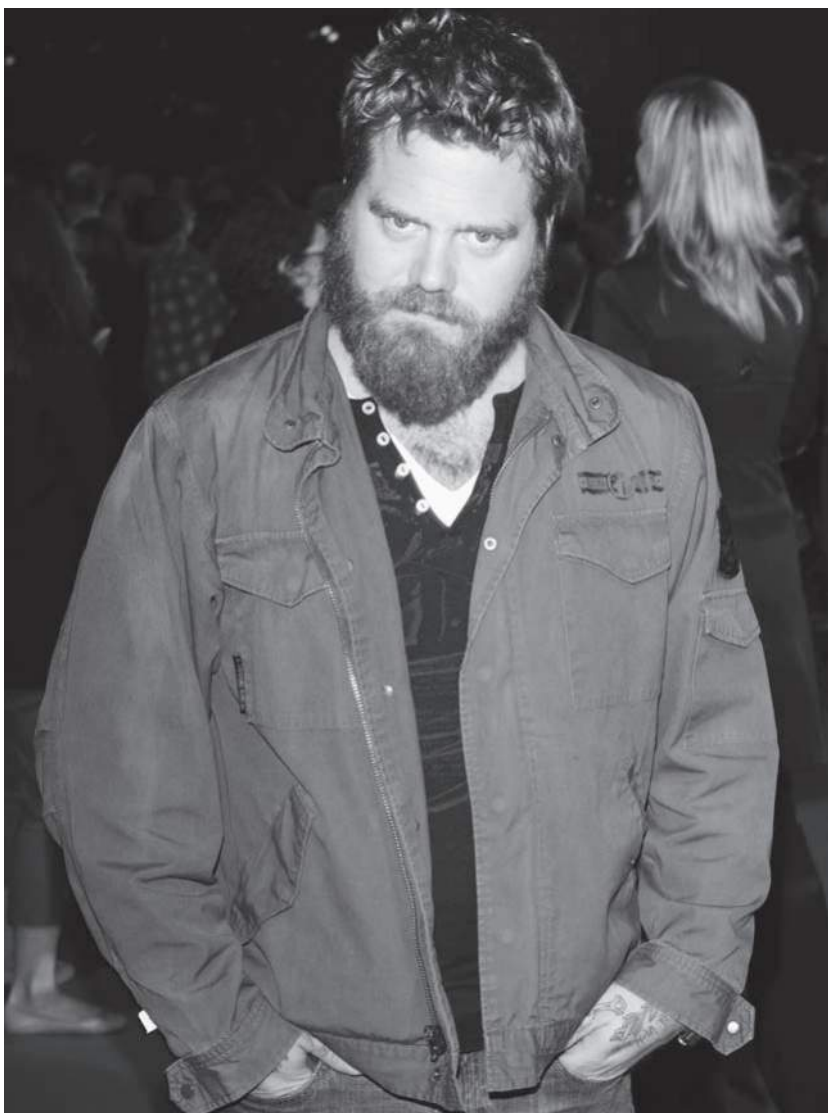
Dunn, a daredevil who gained notoriety for diving into a sewage tank and performing other unsavory stunts, was driving his 2007 Porsche in suburban Philadelphia when it careened off the road, flipped over a guardrail and crashed into the woods before bursting into flames. A passenger was also killed, and speed may have been a factor in the crash, West Goshen Township police said.

The force of impact shattered the vehicle into several twisted and blackened pieces, leaving the Porsche 911 GT3 unrecognizable except for a door that was thrown from the crash and not incinerated. A 100-foot-long tire skid marked where the car left the roadway.

Both Dunn and his passenger were severely burned. Police said they were able to identify Dunn through his tattoos and hair, but the identity of his passenger was still unknown.

Dunn appeared on MTV shows “Jackass” and “Viva La Bam” and the three “Jackass” big-screen adaptations. He also was the star of his own MTV show, “Homewrecker,” and just began hosting the show “Proving Ground” on the G4 cable network.

G4 spokesman Dave Welch said “Proving Ground,” which premiered



In this Nov. 2, 2010 photo, U.S. reality television personality and daredevil Ryan Dunn attends the Jackass 3D UK Premiere at a central London cinema.

June 11 with the second episode slated to air Tuesday, was being pulled for now until the network can discuss the show’s future.

Dunn’s longtime friend and fellow “Jackass” daredevil Johnny Knoxville tweeted on Monday afternoon, “Today I lost my brother Ryan Dunn. My heart goes out to his family and his beloved Angie. RIP Ryan, I love you buddy.”

Dunn also starred in the yet-to-be-released film “Living Will.” The film’s website describes Dunn’s character as a “party bum slacker (who) returns from the dead as a mischievous and perverted ghost.”

In a statement, MTV praised Dunn’s humor and enthusiasm and said he would be missed.

“We are devastated by the tragic loss of Ryan Dunn—a beloved member of the MTV family for more than a decade,” said Van Toffler, president of MTV Networks Music/Films Group. “The Jackass brotherhood will never be the same.”

Dunn was born in Ohio and moved at age 15 to Pennsylvania, where he met Bam Margera on his first day of high school, according to a biography posted on his website.

Dunn, Margera, Christopher Raab (known as Raab Himself) and Brandon DiCamillo, under the moniker CKY for “Camp Kill Yourself,” started making videos that featured them skateboarding and performing stunts.

Dunn was working as a welder and at a gas station when Knoxville, a

friend of Margera’s through the skateboarding circuit, asked the crew to allow their videos to be part of the series “Jackass,” which became a hit on MTV and ran from 2000 to 2002.

Perhaps his most famous stunt, in 2002’s “Jackass: The Movie,” involved inserting a toy car into his rectum and going to an emergency room, where he made up a story that he was in mysterious pain after passing out at a fraternity party. Dunn’s X-ray from the hospital became a popular T-shirt for “Jackass” fans.

That first movie, filmed on a budget of just \$5 million, went on to make more than \$60 million in the United States alone. The most recent installment, released in 3-D in 2010, brought in \$50 million on its opening weekend alone.

In a 2000 stunt, he dived into a tank at a raw sewage plant wearing flippers, a mask and a snorkel.

A few hours before the 3 a.m. crash, Dunn tweeted a picture of himself drinking with two friends. The photo has since been removed.

Autopsies were to be conducted Monday, though it was unclear when the results would be released.

According to court documents, Dunn was charged in April 2005 with driving under the influence after crashing his car in West Whiteland Township, about 2 miles north of Monday’s crash site. The documents show he successfully completed a program designed for first-time, nonviolent offenders that allows charges to be dismissed after defendants finish the program.

Rest of Amy Winehouse’s European tour in doubt

LONDON (AP)—The video is painful to watch, an artistic train wreck for all to see. The question is what Amy Winehouse is going to do next.

The five-time Grammy Award winner, whose battles with alcohol and drug abuse have long overshadowed her music career, had a very public meltdown on stage Saturday night in Belgrade, the first stop of her European summer concert tour.

The disastrous performance shattered the goal of the troubled singer’s comeback tour: A renewed focus on her musical ability, not her substance abuse problems. It also raised serious doubts about whether she is well enough to perform before an audience.

Winehouse was jeered and booed as she stumbled around the stage unable to remember the lyrics to her own songs. At times she could barely stand up. She was not able to carry a tune, appearing disoriented and unaware of her surroundings. At one point she dragged over a backup singer to take the mike and sing.

The crowd at Belgrade’s Kalemegdan Park was often unable to decipher even what song Winehouse was performing—a startling problem for a singer who is popular in Serbia. Many of the 20,000 fans walked out in protest, angry that they paid steep ticket prices for such a spectacle.

Serbian media called the concert a “scandal,” with the Blic daily labeling it “the worst in the history of Belgrade.”

Instead of continuing to Istanbul on Monday and Athens on Wednesday for long-scheduled concerts, Winehouse canceled those concerts and returned to her London home. She is now holding talks that are expected to

lead to further cancellations of her 12-date European tour.

Winehouse had turned down payment for the Belgrade fiasco, her publicist in London said. Serbian fans flooded the Internet with demands to get their ticket money back, but her management did not comment on the issue of refunds.

The Belgrade meltdown has raised questions about Winehouse’s future viability as a live act.

Winehouse, 27, has been hospitalized twice for injuries suffered after fainting and falling at home, and her father said she has health problems stemming from smoking cigarettes and crack cocaine.

Entertainment industry insiders say that if Winehouse cancels more shows she would have major obstacles getting insured.

Neil Warnock, chief executive of The Agency Group booking agency, said Winehouse and her tour promoters may be entitled to insurance coverage for any cancellations. He said insurance settlements would depend on what previous information was provided to the insurance companies.

“If you fairly disclosed any pre-existing conditions, and what caused the cancellation is a new condition, then the artists and promoters would be covered,” he said. “If it’s a pre-condition, then it wouldn’t be covered, or if it’s an undeclared condition that should have been declared, that wouldn’t be covered.”

He said the legal and financial issues that followed Michael Jackson’s sudden death in advance of a series of London performances were based on similar questions.

Warnock said even bands with long

histories of substance abuse like the Rolling Stones were traditionally able to meet their contractual obligations and perform at their gigs. He would not speculate directly on Winehouse’s future.

The singer’s next scheduled concert is July 8 in Bilbao, Spain, but it is likely to be canceled. The tour was to end in Bucharest, Romania, on Aug. 15. The demanding schedule was supposed to be an important test of Winehouse’s ability to stand up to the rigors of live performing.

In addition to her stage troubles, her recording career has also been put on hold. There have long been plans for a follow up to her two successful albums—including the breakthrough “Back to Black” released in 2006—but new material has not been released.

It has been a dramatic fall for Winehouse, whose grasp of pop and soul—along with her trademark beehive hairdo and her raunchy stage act—brought her worldwide fame and substantial sales.

Her first album “Frank,” released in 2003, was heavily influenced by contemporary jazz and earned her critical acclaim. “Back to Black” arrived three years later and was an overwhelming success with its unusual fusion of jazz, pop and soul with a heavy debt to the girl groups of the early, pre-Beatles 1960s.

It was edgy as well, with the song “Rehab” dealing with the health issues that were soon to sidetrack her musical career.

“They tried to make me go to rehab,” Winehouse sang on the hit. “I said ‘No, no, no.’”

Winehouse has sought rehab therapy in the past after her widely publicized battles with alcohol and drugs.



In this image taken Saturday, June 18, 2011 British singer Amy Winehouse performs on stage during her concert in Belgrade Serbia.

Playtime resumes for 'Toy Story' in cartoon short

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Woody the cowboy, Buzz Lightyear and their "Toy Story" pals are back on the big-screen in a new adventure.

The voices of Tom Hanks, Tim Allen, Michael Keaton, Joan Cusack and other stars are featured in a "Toy Story" short film that runs before the Pixar Animation sequel "Cars 2," which debuts in U.S. theaters Friday.

"Toy Story: Hawaiian Vacation" has Hanks' Woody, Allen's Buzz, Cusack's Jessie the cowgirl and the other toys coming up with a scheme to give doll sweethearts Ken and Barbie (Keaton and Jodi Benson) the trip of their dreams.

After lending his voice to the franchise's three blockbuster feature-length films, Hanks says he'll keep coming back to do

the voice of Woody whenever Disney-owned Pixar wants to do more with the "Toy Story" characters.

"Are those people some brand of genius that you can't really begin to fathom?" Hanks said of Pixar, whose 11 feature-length animated films have all been critical and commercial successes. "As long as I don't develop a smoker's cough, yeah, I'm there. Whatever they need. There's only one Woody, and it's me."

Along with winning six of the 10 Academy Awards for feature-length animation since that category was added, Pixar has earned 10 Oscar nominations for its short films, winning three.

Some of those short cartoons have preceded other Pixar feature films on the big-screen, reviving a sense of the

serial entertainment that Hollywood provided at cinemas in its early years.

"We really believe in the short film," said Pixar's creative mastermind, John Lasseter, who received a special Oscar for 1995's "Toy Story," the first computer-animated feature film. "One, in the case of these, it just kind of keeps new animation of our favorite characters going. Secondly, for us internally, it's a great way for us to let younger artists take the next step up in their career to try directing."

The new "Toy Story" short is directed by Gary Rydstrom, a seven-time Oscar winner for sound or sound-effects editing on such movies as "Titanic," "Jurassic Park" and "Saving Private Ryan." A veteran sound designer on Pixar films, Ryd-

strom previously directed the company's Oscar-nominated 2006 animated short "Lifted."

Lasseter, who also directed "Toy Story 2," "A Bug's Life," "Cars" and "Cars 2," said short cartoons allow him and the Pixar crew to keep in touch with characters they have come to consider friends.

Pixar has crafted short films for television and home video reprising characters from "Cars," "The Incredibles," "Up" and other feature hits.

"We'll come up with great ideas, little gags and stuff that are really fun, that are not necessarily appropriate story-wise for a feature film," Lasseter said. "But they're really fantastic for a short film where you would love to see the characters again."

Marilyn Monroe dress is auctioned for \$4.6 million

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Marilyn Monroe dress that flirted revealingly with a gust of New York subway air in "The Seven Year Itch" fetched a record \$4.6 million at an auction of film memorabilia.

A more sedate outfit worn by Audrey Hepburn in the Ascot race scene of "My Fair Lady" drew a \$3.7 million bid at the sale of nearly 600 Hollywood costumes and props collected by film star Debbie Reynolds.

The buyers, who were not identified, also paid a sum to the auction house and other fees, according to auction publicity firm Nancy Seltzer & Associates. That brought the total price to more than \$5.6 million for the Monroe costume and \$4.5 million for the black-and-white gown worn by Hepburn.

The total was \$22.8 million, according to auction house Profiles in History.

"I'm thrilled beyond words. This first auction shows that our great stars were loved by the world," Reynolds said. She plans to part with more with items later this year.

In filmmaker Billy Wilder's "The Seven Year Itch," Monroe's character cooled off by



In this Sept. 9, 1954 file photo, Marilyn Monroe poses over the updraft of a New York subway grating while in character for the filming of "The Seven Year Itch" in New York.

standing over a subway grate to catch the breeze as a train sped underneath—which sent

her dress north and exposed a shocking amount of leg and undergarment for a 1955 movie.

The costume's price set two records, according to Profiles in History: It surpassed the \$1.26 million paid for the dress Monroe wore when she sang "Happy Birthday" to President John F. Kennedy, and it became the most expensive film costume sold.

That honor had belonged to Hepburn's black dress from "Breakfast at Tiffany's," which sold for \$923,000, the auction house said.

More modest but still impressive bids at Saturday's auction in Beverly Hills and online included \$540,000 for a Grace Kelly costume from "To Catch a Thief," \$140,000 for a guitar used by Julie Andrews in "The Sound of Music" and \$100,000 for a "Cleopatra" headdress that adorned Elizabeth Taylor.

Reynolds, 79, started collecting four decades ago at auctions held by major film studios, including MGM and Fox, and eventually acquired 3,500-plus items.

The auction meant the end of a dream for Reynolds, who starred as a teenager with Gene Kelly in "Singin' in the Rain" and was an Oscar nominee for "The Unsinkable Molly Brown."

Husband abused by his wife finds few resources for men

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I was a victim of domestic abuse by my wife, and I don't feel I have been treated fairly. There are many programs for abused women, but I haven't found any for men. This problem is more common than people realize, but men are embarrassed to say anything. I'd like my voice to be heard to encourage men to speak up.

I did not hit my wife back after she beat on me. I still love her, but I refuse to be abused any longer. Abby, please help me help myself and others.



Dear Abby

BILL IN ARKANSAS

DEAR BILL: Gladly. Among the problems with spousal abuse is that it escalates. Over the last decade domestic violence groups have become more aware of female-to-male domestic violence and violent behavior in same-sex relationships, and are better prepared to offer help than they used to be. That's why it's important you contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline. The toll-free number is (800) 799-7233. Counselors there offer guidance to women and men who are being abused by their spouse or partner.

Another organization, SAFE (Stop Abuse for Everyone), also assists victims of abuse regardless of age, gender or sexual orientation. Its website is www.safe4all.org.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Our daughter is divorced with two children. She has been dating a man who has three children. Recently, they decided to move in together. All the children are first grade or younger.

What would be the proper way to handle birthdays?

If my daughter and her boyfriend were married, or even engaged, I wouldn't have a problem sending gifts to his children. But since my husband and I hardly know this man (we live in another state and have met him only once or twice), we're not sure how to handle this. Should we just continue to send birthday gifts to our daughter's kids and nothing but cards to his? Or would that look bad? What's the proper thing?

FAIR-MINDED IN WEST VIRGINIA

DEAR FAIR-MINDED: Your daughter and grandchildren have formed a household with her boyfriend and his kids. If you're compassionate people, you will treat all of the children equally for as long as the relationship lasts. If they decide to marry, which is a possibility, you will wind up being grandparents to all of them. If they eventually separate, you will have done the right thing and lent some stability and happiness to those children's lives.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: For a lot of reasons—many betrayals among them—I have almost completely lost my faith in the basic goodness of people. I have started isolating myself because I believe that more contact with people will destroy what little belief I have left. I don't want to be so bitter and cynical, and I need help overcoming this. Any advice would be appreciated.

WOUNDED SOUL IN MINNESOTA

DEAR WOUNDED: I'm sorry you have suffered disappointment. But isolating yourself from others isn't the solution. I don't know anyone who hasn't been disappointed in someone at some point, but it's not a reason to hide.

Trust is something that has to be developed, and building it takes time. While I agree that relationships can be risky, unless you are willing to take some risk, there will be no reward.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Sean Kingston says he's feeling better after crash

MIAMI (AP)—Singer Sean Kingston says he's feeling better almost a month after crashing his watercraft into a Miami Beach bridge. On his Twitter page Monday, Kingston posted a message to his fans. He wrote: "Feeling alot better! GOD IS GREAT! Thanks for all the prayers and support! Love you ALL!" Kingston also posted a picture of himself, in the hospital, flashing a peace sign. His publicist, Joseph Carozza, says Kingston's condition has been upgraded to fair. The singer famous for his 2007 hit "Beautiful Girls" has been hospitalized in Miami since the May 29 crash.

Carozza says Kingston walked on his own a couple of weeks ago for the first time since the accident.

'Spider-man' musical not hurt by poor reviews

NEW YORK (AP)—The reboot of the "Spider-Man" musical hasn't been hurt by opening night reviews. The show, which finally welcomed professional drama critics, grossed over \$1 million last week and even beat the popular musical "The Book of Mormon." The reviews acknowledged improvement over the earlier version but were still poor. "Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark" opened Tuesday. It pulled in nearly \$1.28 million

for the week ending Sunday. That makes it the third-highest grossing show on Broadway after "Wicked" and "The Lion King." The critically acclaimed and nine-time Tony winner "The Book of Mormon" earned over \$1.19 million for the same eight-show period. Both "Mormon" and "Spider-Man" are playing to full houses, but discounted tickets for the comic book hero means it is making about three-quarters of its box office potential.

Tattoo artist settles over design in 'Hangover II'

BURBANK, Calif. (AP)—The tattoo artist who sued over Ed Helms' tattoo in "The Hangover

Part II" has settled his lawsuit over the design, which resembles the facial ink the artist created for Mike Tyson. Warner Bros. spokesman Paul McGuire said Monday that the movie studio and S. Victor Whitmill amicably resolved their dispute. McGuire declined to discuss the case further. In the movie, Helms' character, Stu, wakes up in a Bangkok bathtub with a facial tattoo. Whitmill claimed the filmmakers ripped off the design that he tattooed on Tyson in 2003 in Las Vegas. Whitmill now lives in Missouri. The lawsuit filed in federal court in St. Louis tried to block the film's release, but a judge ruled just two days before the film's May 26 debut that it could open as scheduled.

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ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- CECILIA NAPUTI RIOS, Defendant. CIVIL ACTION NO. 07-0425 NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to Order issued by the Court in this matter on June 3, 2011, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 005 I 021, situated in Koblerville, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 1, 051 square meters, more or less, as shown on Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 005 I 01, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry as Document No. 16706 on March 11, 1983, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, July 8, 2011, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 8th day of June, 2011: /s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFP11-DPW/ED-099 SUBMISSION DATE: DATE: JULY 11, 2011 • TIME: 2:00 P.M. "PROJECT AND CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR ARRA ENERGY PROJECTS FUNDED UNDER THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSTRUCTION BLOCK GRANT" THE COMPLETE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER JUNE 08, 2011 AND MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE CNMI ARRA STATE LEAD, LOCATED AT THE MARIANAS BUSINESS PLAZA, THIRD FLOOR, OFFICE #315 OR REQUESTED VIA E-MAIL TO eecbg_cm@recovery.gov.mp A MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON JUNE 24, 2011 AT 9:00 A.M., AT THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS MAIN OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM, 2ND FLOOR, GUALO RAI COMMERCIAL BUILDING. ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT SHOULD BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING VIA EMAIL TO eecbg_cm@recovery.gov.mp OR FAXED TO (670) 234-3016 NO LATER THAN CLOSE OF BUSINESS JUNE 29, 2011. THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT. /S/ MARTIN C. SABLAN SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS /S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY /S/ MICHAEL J. ADA CNMI ARRA STATE LEAD /S/ THELMA B. INOS DIRECTOR, ENERGY DIV.

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Venus Williams, Nadal win openers at Wimbledon



WIMBLEDON, England (AP)—Back on one of tennis' top stages,

Venus Williams cut a familiar figure Monday at Wimbledon, from her latest original, somewhat-see-through outfit to her trademark booming serves and aggressive groundstrokes.

Williams smacked seven aces at up to 118 mph, totaled 23 winners to only five unforced errors, and overwhelmed 97th-ranked Akgul Amanmuradova of Uzbekistan 6-3, 6-1 in the first round at the All England Club.

The seven-time major champion recently was off the tour for about five months with a bum hip, including missing the French Open, and this is only her fourth tournament in nearly a year.

"It's a good place to start. And this is kind of like a home for her. She loves it," said Williams' hitting partner, David Witt. "She feels confident out here, and in women's tennis, 'confident' goes a long way."

There sure was nothing shy about a playsuit Williams called "trendy": white and sleeveless, with a deep "V" neckline, a triangle cut out in the back, a gold belt and gold zipper.

"Jumpers are very 'now,'" she explained, "as is lace."

Not as sensational as the corset-like black lace number with skin-toned undergarments that drew so much attention at the 2010 French Open, but Monday's romper looked something akin to a toga and surely would have won the approval of her Roman goddess namesake.

"She always has something interesting," said the 6-foot-3 Amanmuradova, a rare opponent taller than the 6-foot-1 Williams. "It's good to have something different on the tour. I wear shorts, and everybody is criticizing that I look like a guy. ... If she feels comfortable, perfect. Personally, I wouldn't wear this, because it's not going to look good on me. But if it's white, you can play. That's the rule. If everybody wears the same, it's boring."

Williams' outfit—and, of course, superb play, which betrayed no lingering effects from her injury—generated the most buzz on Day 1 in the 125th edition of the grass-court Grand Slam tournament.

"I do realize I don't have as many matches," said Williams, only 5-2 this season and only 9-3 since last July. "So, yeah, for sure, I know I need to kind of come out firing. Been pretty good at that in the past—and today."

Others reaching the second round included 10-time major champion Rafael Nadal, whose parents sat in the Royal Box during his 6-4, 6-2, 6-2 victory over 90th-ranked Michael Russell of Houston; No. 4 Andy Murray, and No. 10 Mardy Fish.



Venus Williams of the U.S. returns a shot to Uzbekistan's Akgul Amanmuradova at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships at Wimbledon, Monday, June 20, 2011.

It was Nadal's first chance to play the tournament's opening match on Centre Court, an honor given to the defending men's champion, and something he called a "big emotion." Bad knees forced Nadal to withdraw in 2009, a year after he won Wimbledon for the first time.

He was more blasé about his parents' special seats, saying: "It doesn't make any difference to me whether I see them in my (guest) box or in the Royal Box. But I think it was a beautiful experience for them."

Nadal now faces another American, 69th-ranked Ryan Sweeting of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., who dropped the first two sets against Pablo Andujar of Spain before coming all the way back to win 3-6, 4-6, 6-1, 7-6 (1), 6-1.

It'll be Sweeting's third match against Nadal this year. Nadal won the others in straight sets, including at the Australian Open.

"They keep putting me up in the top half of the draw. I don't know what the deal is," Sweeting said. "What can I say? He's obviously one of the toughest opponents to play on any surface."

The second question at Nadal's news conference concerned whether he believes Murray, Roger Federer or Novak Djokovic is likeliest to thwart his title hopes.

"My biggest opponent is Sweeting now. I am focused on my part of the draw. I'm focused on myself. To play against Andy or Djokovic or Federer only can be in the final; against Andy in the semifinals," the Spaniard replied. "So let's talk about today. Let's talk about tomorrow. ... Let's (not) talk about ... 10 days or 12 days (from now), because I don't know if I am here or I am fishing in Mallorca."

Four seeded players exited Monday, including No. 28 Ekaterina Makarova of Russia, who was beaten 2-6, 6-1, 8-6 by 19-year-old Christina McHale of Englewood Cliffs, N.J. McHale entered the day 1-6 in Grand Slam matches. No. 17 Kaia Kanepi lost to Sara Errani 6-1, 6-4, No. 22 Shahar Peer was eliminated 5-7, 6-4, 6-4 by Ksenia Pervak, and No. 30 Thomaz Bellucci was sent home in straight sets by 35-year-old Rainer Schuettler, the oldest man in the field.

Otherwise, the most significant development probably was the rain that began falling at about 5 p.m., resulting in the suspension of 14 matches in progress and the postponement of 17 others.

And Tuesday's forecast calls for more rain.

Two matches were played under the retractable roof, which was added to Centre Court before the 2009 tournament. That included two-time Wimbledon semifinalist Murray's 4-6, 6-3, 6-0, 6-0 victory over 59th-ranked Daniel Gimeno-Traver of Spain. Murray is trying to give Britain its first male champion at any Grand Slam tournament since 1936, and he overcame a slow start against Gimeno-Traver, a first-round loser for the eighth time in 12 major tournaments.

Earlier, in a match tied 1-1 in the third set when rain began falling, Francesca Schiavone - the 2010 champion and 2011 runner-up at the French Open - beat Jelena Dokic 6-4, 1-6, 6-3. "For me, personally, Wimbledon is with no roof," said Schiavone, who said she got a chance to get advice from her coach during the 50-minute delay in

action while the court was covered. "But it's great for English people to have the roof."

Williams stopped one game into her third-round match at the Australian Open in January after aggravating her hurt hip. She returned to action last week at a

grass-court tuneup tournament in Eastbourne, going 2-1 there, and Monday looked nothing like someone who was rusty.

Because she hasn't played much at all over the last 12 months, Williams thought she "had a little pressure on me to

come out and swing as usual."

She made zero unforced errors in the second set, taking the last six games and the last 12 points. She claimed 15 of the final 17 points she served.

"On her serve, it was almost impossible," Amanmuradova said, opening her eyes wide. "I actually never played anyone on the tour serving as hard and as fast as she does."

Williams, once ranked No. 1, dropped to 33rd this month. She's at No. 30 this week, but was seeded 23rd as a nod to her five Wimbledon titles and a career record at the All England Club that's now 69-9.

"I'm smarter, if anything, than five years ago," said Williams, who turned 31 Friday. "More and more players are starting to realize that it's an advantage to be able to play longer, because then you actually understand the game."

If that's so, her second-round opponent understands things even better than Williams does. That's because Kimiko Date-Krumm is 40; her 6-0, 7-5 defeat over British wild-card entry Katie O'Brien was her first victory at Wimbledon since reaching the 1996 semifinals.

Date-Krumm retired that year, then returned to the tour in 2008.

"It was amazing when she came back. ... I always root for her, actually," Williams said. "But this time ... I will be rooting for me."

Rubio arrives in Minnesota to big fanfare



MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—From dance team members waving pompoms to signs reading "We Love You Ricky!" and a full-page ad in the local newspaper, the Minnesota Timberwolves pulled out all the stops to make Ricky Rubio feel welcome on the day of his long anticipated arrival from Spain.

About 200 people—many of them Timberwolves employees—gathered at the Minneapolis-St. Paul airport Monday to cheer the 20-year-old point guard as he emerged from customs for his first extended stay in Minnesota.

The Timberwolves, and their downtrodden fans, have waited two years for the flashy passer to come over from Spain. Rubio was drafted fifth overall in 2009, but stayed in Europe for another two seasons until he could afford to buy out his professional contract with FC Barcelona.

Rubio made his official announcement on Friday, a few days after his Spanish team defeated Bilbao in the ACB League finals.

The news has energized fans who have watched the Wolves lose 132 games the last two years, and dozens showed up at the airport to roll out the welcome mat for a player they believe will

help turn things around.

The group at the international entrance to baggage claim waited almost an hour for Rubio to arrive. What's a few extra minutes when you've been waiting for two years?

Rubio got a loud ovation as he and president of basketball operations David Kahn arrived. Even for a player who has been receiving attention since he turned pro as a 14-year-old, the scene seemed to take him aback. He smiled sheepishly and signed some autographs as he was swarmed by news cameras, flash bulbs popping as he made his way to the exit.

One fan asked Rubio to sign his hand.

"Your hand?" Rubio asked with a quizzical look on his face. "All right."

Another waved a Spanish flag and gave him a fruit basket as a gift.

"I've been waiting two years for it," said Jason Strand, a pastor who wore a white Timberwolves No. 9 jersey with Rubio's name on the back. "When he got drafted a couple years ago I was super excited, but knew that he may not come over. My wife makes fun of me because I watch grainy YouTube videos of Ricky Rubio in some obscure Spanish league."

After a few minutes—and with fans and team employ-

ees showering him with chants of "Ricky! Ricky!"—he was whisked away with his family in a small bus, headed for downtown Minneapolis.

"I (just) arrive to the hotel here in MN," Rubio wrote on Twitter. "I(t) was so impressive in da airport. Thanks a lot of u guys. I feel comfortable here. Time to rest!!!"

Rubio, who did not speak with reporters, is scheduled to hold an introductory press conference on Tuesday to kick off what is expected to be a busy week of promotional appearances, charity events and orientation in a city that ideally will be his new home for years to come.

Rubio will meet with team executives, corporate sponsors and at least one of the local endorsers who will help pay his \$1.4 million buyout. He'll also attend the team's draft party on Thursday night.

He visited Minnesota once very briefly after he was drafted in 2009, but this is his first real chance to get to know the area.

"Last time was such a whirlwind. ... He'll be able to come now and say this is my team, this is my new family, this is my state where I'm going to live," assistant GM Tony Ronzone said. "I think he'll have his eyes wide open and be more appreciative to what he sees and his surroundings."

A-Rod sets up Yankees win over Reds



CINCINNATI
(AP)—New

York's Alex Rodriguez keyed a four-run first inning that set up the Yankees' 5-3 win over the Cincinnati Reds in Monday's interleague play in Major League Baseball.

New York rookie pitcher Ivan Nova (7-4) won his third straight start, allowing just one run and no walks over eight innings, taming the National League's most prolific offense.

The Reds got a couple of runs in the ninth before Mariano Rivera closed it out for his 18th save in 21 chances, and the Yankees moved a season-best 13 games above .500.

New York started fast against Reds left-hander Travis Wood (5-5), who made an unexpected start. Originally scheduled to pitch on Tuesday, he was moved up a day when Johnny Cueto showed up with a stiff neck.

Rays 8, Brewers 4

In Milwaukee, Jeff Niemann tossed six scoreless innings in his return from an injury, steering Tampa Bay to victory over Milwaukee in their first visit to Miller Park.

Niemann (2-4) had spent the last 45 days on the disabled list with a lower back strain, but looked comfortable while using his big curveball to neutralize the Brewers.

Tampa Bay gave Niemann an early run against Chris Narveson (4-5) and tacked on seven more late, including four in the seventh and Evan Longoria's three-run shot in the eighth.

The Brewers fell a half-game out of first place in the NL Central, trailing the idle Cardinals, while the Rays have won



New York Yankees' Alex Rodriguez gets a hit off Cincinnati Reds relief pitcher Jose Arredondo in the eighth inning of an interleague baseball game, Monday, June 20, 2011, in Cincinnati.

four straight.

Braves 2, Blue Jays 0

In Atlanta, Tim Hudson pitched scoreless ball into the ninth inning and hit his second career home run, leading Atlanta over Toronto.

Hudson (6-6) allowed one walk and struck out a season-high eight, including the 1,600th of his career. He connected off Ricky Romero (6-7) for a two-run homer with two outs in the seventh.

Hudson retired 20 straight batters before a walk and single in the ninth. Craig Kimbrel relieved and struck out three to

earn his 20th save in 25 chances.

Rockies 8, Indians 7

In Cleveland, Jason Giambi's gigantic three-run homer in Colorado's six-run fifth inning inflicted Cleveland's first defeat in seven interleague games this season.

Giambi's 440-foot shot—his 422nd career homer—off Fausto Carmona (4-9) helped the Rockies win for the fifth time in six games and get back to .500 for the first time in two months. The 40-year-old Giambi will get more at-bats with the Rockies on the road in AL ballparks for the next five games.

Matt Lindstrom (2-1), the

second of five Rockies relievers, got the win. Huston Street worked the ninth for his NL-leading 21st save in 23 chances.

The Indians collected 12 hits in their first game with new batting coach Bruce Fields, who replaced Jon Nunnally, who was fired on Saturday.

Red Sox 14, Padres 5

In Boston, Adrian Gonzalez drove in three runs in a 10-run seventh inning against his former team as hot-hitting Boston rolled past struggling San Diego.

Gonzalez boosted his major league-leading RBI total to 67 since the Padres, unable to give him a lucrative contract, traded him to the Red Sox in the off-season for three top prospects. He went 3 for 5 to increase his batting average to .353, also the best in the majors.

Tied 3-3 going into the seventh, Gonzalez drove in the go-ahead run with a double. After the second out, the Red Sox scored nine more runs.

San Diego, which began the day with a major league-low .232 average, has dropped a season-high six straight games. Cory Luebke (1-2) got the loss.

Matt Albers (2-3) pitched 1 1-3 scoreless innings for the AL East-leading Red Sox, who won for the 14th time in 16 games to remain 1Q ahead of the New York Yankees.

Dodgers 4, Tigers 0

In Los Angeles, Clayton Kershaw threw his third career shutout and complete game to direct Los Angeles past Detroit.

Juan Uribe homered for the Dodgers, who recorded their second straight shutout.

Kershaw (7-3) tied a season

high with 11 strikeouts, allowed only two hits and one walk.

Tigers starter Brad Penny (5-6) gave up seven hits over six innings.

Orioles 8, Pirates 3

In Pittsburgh, Nick Markakis had three hits to help Baltimore down Pittsburgh.

Orioles starter Jake Arrieta (9-4) moved into a tie for the American League lead in wins, giving up three runs over five innings and even adding his first major league hit. He is the first Orioles pitcher in 18 years to reach nine wins by June 20.

The Orioles average 6.5 runs per game when Arrieta starts. They needed just two innings to top that mark against struggling Pirates starter Charlie Morton (7-4) while handing Pittsburgh its fourth straight loss.

Morton gave up seven runs in two innings. His ERA in June is 8.50.

Angels 2, Marlins 1

In Miami, Florida went down to its 11th straight loss, beaten by Los Angeles despite the appointment of 80-year-old former championship manager Jack McKeon as interim boss.

The change in leadership failed to inspire a reversal by the Marlins, who are 1-19 in June. The losing streak is their longest since 1998, when they lost 108 games. Florida also matched another franchise record by losing an 11th straight one-run game.

Angels starter Jered Weaver (9-4) equaled the lead for wins in the majors and pitched seven innings, allowing one run to lower his ERA to 2.01.

Marlins reliever Steve Cishek (0-1) took the loss in a game whose start was delayed almost

two hours by rain.

Rangers 8, Astros 3

In Arlington, Texas, Adrian Beltre had a pair of RBI singles among his three hits which helped Texas defeat state rival Houston. Josh Hamilton hit a two-run triple off the wall as the AL West leaders scored in each of the first three innings, quickly settling back in at home after a stretch of playing 17 of 20 games on the road. Texas starter Derek Holland (6-2) pitched into the eighth to win at Rangers Ballpark for the first time in nearly two months. He allowed six hits over 7 1-3 innings.

Houston starter J.A. Happ (3-9) lost his fifth straight decision. He gave up seven runs over 2 2-3 innings—his shortest outing of the season.

Cubs 6, White Sox 3

In Chicago, Carlos Zambrano kept his cool this time after a tough first inning and steered the Cubs to victory in the all-Chicago clash.

Zambrano (6-4), who had a meltdown nearly a year ago at the home of the White Sox, recovered from a shaky three-run first and went eight innings.

Carlos Pena hit a three-run homer and Starlin Castro drove in three runs for the Cubs. The first matchup of six this season between the crosstown rivals with losing records drew a crowd of 36,005 to U.S. Cellular Field. White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen was ejected in the sixth inning after apparently arguing that a ball hit near the plate should have been ruled foul.

White Sox starter Gavin Floyd (6-7) gave up six runs in five-plus innings.

Key NFL owners' meeting begins Tuesday



CHICAGO
(AP)—One day of owners' meetings could turn into two. Whether

that's a sign of progress toward the end of the lockout and labor peace is debatable.

NFL owners will gather Tuesday, and perhaps into Wednesday, to discuss the status of negotiations with the players for a new collective bargaining agreement. This is the first meeting called by the league strictly for labor matters, and the 32 team owners and representatives who will be on hand were advised last week to prepare to stay an extra day.

That's how complex—and perhaps contentious—some of the issues are.

In the last three weeks, groups led by NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell and NFL Players Association executive director DeMaurice Smith have made enough progress toward a

CBA that it sparked optimism training camps could open on time late next month.

But no one is saying a deal is imminent, and several owners are known to have strong questions about proposals being discussed with the players.

Each side is eager to get something done before the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in St. Louis rules on the league's request to permanently block an injunction that originally lifted the lockout. That injunction had been on hold while the three-man appeals panel considers the case, but one of the judges warned the owners and players they both wouldn't like the decision.

Fearful of a ruling in which both sides lose—for example, the lockout could be allowed to continue, but only until it reaches six months, which would be four days after the regular season opens—Goodell, lead negotiator Jeff Pash and a handful



Members of the Kansas City Chiefs run a play during a players' organized football workout, Thursday, June 16, 2011, in Roeland Park, Kan.

of owners have met with Smith and a group of players over the past three weeks. Out of those talks has come word of move-

ment and an atmosphere of cooperation, a far cry from the rhetoric and court actions of the previous months.

Indianapolis Colts owner Jim Irsay has said a deal needs to be in place by July 4 in order to have a normal training camp

and preseason. The Minnesota Vikings announced they could wait until July 18 to determine if they will hold any of their training camp in Mankato, as they usually do, but that certainly is cutting things close.

No talks with the players are scheduled until after the Chicago owners' meeting. Instead, the owners will be briefed on recent negotiations, including such topics as prospective salary caps; a rookie wage scale; free agency requirements; health benefits; and, most significantly, how much revenue from the \$9.3 billion business they are willing to share with the players.

Of chief concern on the owners' side could be keeping a united front if some teams, particularly the lower-revenue or small-market franchises, are not satisfied with the numbers presented in Chicago.

The first preseason game, at the Pro Football Hall of Fame, is scheduled for Aug. 7. That makes these meetings, over 24 hours or more, critical in the NFL's first work stoppage since 1987.

‘Butch Journey to XTERRA Hawaii’ race Sunday

 XTERRA World Championship-bound Butch Sublemente will be holding a fundraising race this Sunday at Paupau Beach.

Dubbed as Butch Journey to XTERRA Hawaii, the event’s registration starts at

6pm, while the race kicks off at 7am.

“We have three courses: road bike, MTB sport, and MTB open. For road bike, they have to go at five corners, start at Paupau, head up to Radar Station, Suicide Cliff, Bird Island, Grotto, and Banzai and then back to Paupau for the

finish,” Sublemente said.

For the MTB sport, riders will also go up Radar Station, turn right to one million gallon, go up to Kimikaze trail and then turn left to the main road for the finish at Paupau. MTB open course will have the same start, but after Kimikaze, riders must go all the


way to Autobahn and Grotto trails, Cowtown, and Banzai before heading back to Paupau for the finish.

Entrance fee is only \$10. Proceeds from the tournament will be used to help fund Sublemente’s trip to Hawaii. He will go to Maui on June 23 to compete in the 2011 XTERRA

World Championship. The triathlete qualified for XTERRA World after completing the 1.5-kilometer swim, 30-km mountain bike race, and 12-km run in the 2011 XTERRA Saipan Championship in three hours, 32 minutes, and 21 seconds—the best time among the non-pro finishers and eighth fastest overall. Sublemente was the top Saipan male finisher in XTERRA Saipan and ruled the 35 to 39 age group, beating six other participants.

For more information about the Sunday race, contact Sublemente at bsublemente@yahoo.com. *(Rose-lyn B. Monroyo)*

Pac Chain softball fundraiser set July 1-3

 Team Pac Chain is inviting all interested teams to participate in their fundraiser softball tournament set from July 1 to July 3 at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

The event aims to help Team Pac Chain raise fund to travel to Portland, Oregon this September for the 2011 CNMI Labor Day Softball Tournament.

Prizes are up for grabs, but have not yet been determined. Organizers have scheduled

a meeting for interested participants on June 29, 6pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

The entrance fee is set at \$125 per team and the first 10

SUFA softball fundraiser tourney this weekend

The SUFA Softball Association has scheduled a 6pm coaches and team representatives meeting tonight at the pavilion behind Gilbert C. Ada Gym for teams interested in participating in its fundraising softball tournament scheduled from June 24 to June 26 at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

There is a \$100 entrance per

squad and the first 10 teams to pay in full will be allotted spots. So far, five teams have already signed up.

The tourney will follow a double-elimination format with one modified co-ed rule. At least two female players must be on the field (and in the lineup) at all times.

Prizes are up for grabs but

have not been determined yet.

Proceeds of this weekend’s tourney will go toward Team SUFA’s trip to Portland, Oregon where they will compete in the highly anticipated 2011 Annual Labor Day Softball Tournament.

For more information, contact Joe Flores at 483-7848. *(Walter Cepeda Sutherland)*

teams to pay in full can participate in the three-day event.

The tourney will follow a double-elimination format with one modified co-ed rule. Two female players will be required on the field and in the line up at all times.

In addition, lunches will be sold at the Capital Hill Ballfield on July 2.

Team Pac Chain is made up of CNMI residents and students in Boise, Idaho that attend Boise State University and various high schools in the Boise area.

Team Pac Chain finished second last year to the Island Boys out of Seattle, Wash-

ington. The event drew 32 teams and was held in Kent, Washington.

For more information, contact Shine Tenorio at 483-1141 or Jack Diaz at 989-6469. *(Walter Cepeda Sutherland)*

SGA June Ace this Sunday

The Saipan Golfers Association will hold its June Ace of the Month Tournament this Sunday, June 26, at the Marianas Country Club. Show time is set at 9am and tee time at 10:30am. *(SGA)*

BIG

From Page 28

ASPAC in Guam next month.

Unfortunately because of funding woes, four members of the Saipan Big League All-Stars that won the district championship will not be going to the Philippines’ capital.

Dirty [baker’s] dozen

The 13 players that will go include Elijah Aughenbaugh, Richard Dela Cruz, MacGarette Duenas, Nathan Guerrero, Dave Jones, Joshua Jones, Jeremy Lizama, Keoni Lizama, Juan Maratita II, Joe Palacios, Rocco Reyes, Nokki Saralu, and Eric Tenorio.

Aughenbaugh and Tenorio played on the 2004 ASPAC Major League champion team; Duenas and Palacios on the 2006 ASPAC Majors champi-

ons, while Dela Cruz, Duenas, Nathan Guerrero, Jeremy Lizama, and Palacios all played on last year’s Senior League ASPAC champions.

The team will be managed by Joe Flores with head coach Jonathan Tenorio and assistant coach Robert Magofna manning the sidelines. Tenorio coached last year’s ASPAC senior champs.

During the meeting, Flores emphasized the importance of everyone’s timely arrival to the airport because the team cannot afford to miss any more players.

Harry Nakamura, Marvin Ngeskebei, Anthony Leon-Guerrero, and Mike Iguel are staying behind this year, although they did appear in the CNMI Little League District Tournament last month.

The pitcher-catcher combo of Nakamura and Ngeskebei

were members of last year’s Senior League champs, while this season marks Iguel’s final year of eligibility.

Departure time

The team is set to depart from Saipan at 4am early Saturday morning and must check-in at the airport by 2am.

Last Friday, the team paid half of its \$687 group discount transportation fee per player through Wings Travel and payment of the remaining half is due by tomorrow, June 23.

ASPAC organizers waived this year’s entrance fee, but instead required participating teams to provide their own hotel and travel expenses.

The team estimates its lodging expenditure at \$5,000, but is awaiting \$3,000 from Saipan Little League Baseball Inc.

The team has also sent out letters to Gov. Benigno R. Fi-

tial, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), Reps. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), Ramon Basa (Cov-Saipan), and Fred Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), requesting personal donations since public funds are off the table.

Donation letters were also sent to Bridge Capital, Tan Holdings, and Triple J.

Coin drives

The brunt of the team’s funding came from an anonymous sponsor, however players are still conducting last-minute fundraising efforts such as coin drives at the intersection of Beach Road and Isa Drive during lunch hour to acquire additional funding while in Manila.

Some players heard rumors of the good news over the weekend, but received official confirmation from the coaches on Monday. This will be the first

time the players will compete in the Philippines.

“We are very excited to receive the opportunity. Last year we came up a little short because of the stiff competition and I hope we win it this time for the CNMI,” said Aughenbaugh.

Last year’s CNMI Big Leaguers endured three tough losses, all by just one run, in Jakarta, Indonesia.

“I can’t wait for this experience...this is my first all-

star appearance and it feels like a long time in waiting for me,” said Keoni Lizama.

Lizama felt snubbed after being left off the 2008 Junior League squad, despite finishing near the top tier of the batting statistics. He also pulled out from last year’s Senior League team and opted to attend the Oceania Baseball Training Camp on Guam.

The teams will be practicing daily from 10am to noon until Thursday.

CNMI

From Page 28

Daniel Del Carmen also finished in double figures with 13.

Next to see action in Day 1 were the CNMI cagebells, who also met Guam and lost, too, 36-86.

Melody Johnson was the top-scorer for the Commonwealth with 10, while Rachel Abrams and Kaylani Lebria contributed

six apiece.

Guam controlled the match right at the opening quarter and pulled away, 21-6. CNMI slowly got to its rhythm in the second canto, but still fell behind at halftime, 19-43. Guam went on to pick up where it left off in the second half for a blowout win.

Day 1 of the youth competition closed out with a game between host Palau and the CNMI in the boys division.

Christian Mizer exploded for

22 points, but the CNMI still lost, 53-74. Josephus Aguilar added 11 for the Commonwealth.

R.B. Durado led Palau’s win, as he also scored 22 markers, while Marvic Nghcar tallied 17.

The CNMI was hoping to make it to the win column yesterday against Guahan—Guam’s second team. Manalili’s wards were also set to duel Palau’s second team—Belau. The Commonwealth’s cagebells were scheduled to play two

matches yesterday with their first game against Palau and the second over Belau. Results of these matches were unavailable at press time.

In other results in Day 1, Palau went 2-0 in the boys division, as it also beat Guahan, 73-65. Guahan has a 1-1 record after recovering with an 88-55 victory over Belau.

In the girls division, Palau won the battle of sister teams after topping Belau, 64-18.

MINOR

From Page 28

ter the Junior ITF rankings.

Minor was unseeded in the New Caledonia tournament and faced the fifth-seeded Feneridis, who is ranked No. 510 and on her second year in the Junior ITF Circuit, earning a combined

83.75 ranking points (doubles and singles).

The CNMI bet also joined the doubles main draw and teamed up with Papua New Guinea’s Lorish Puluspene. The duo eventually lost to Australia’s Alexcia Hallal and Lara Palmer, 6-1, 6-3.

After the tournament in New Caledonia, Minor will be re-

turning to Fiji to join another Junior ITF event—the 2011 Air Pacific South Pacific Open Junior Championships that will run from June 27 to July 3.

Before the competition in New Caledonia, Minor was in Guam for the 2011 North Pacific Qualifying Tournament and helped the CNMI dominate the five-day competition.

She won both the singles and doubles events in the girls U18 division and then left Guam Friday night and arrived in Fiji on Saturday before heading to New Caledonia one day before joining her first Junior ITF tournament.

Minor was the lone junior player from Micronesia to compete in New Caledonia.

UPSET

From Page 28

Villaflor (1-3). Montano will play Villaflor on Thursday, the same day that Tolentino and Caleon will square off for the other finals berth.

In the women’s singles C, only Cris Obaldo is assured of a semis slot after an unblemished 4-0 slate. Roma

Barlao has 3-1 record and has a strong chance of moving into the next round. Irish Pagarao holds a 2-1 mark for third place, while Alma Ortega, Kim Boranah, and Elna Curate are tied for fourth with similar 2-2 records.

Standings and results in the men’s singles and doubles and women’s doubles will be published in *Saipan Tribune’s* Thursday edition.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES				
MLB STANDINGS				
		Florida	32 41	.438 13
AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	44	28	.611	—
New York	42	29	.592	1 1/2
Tampa Bay	40	33	.548	4 1/2
Toronto	36	37	.493	8 1/2
Baltimore	33	37	.471	10
Central Division				
Cleveland	39	32	.549	—
Detroit	39	34	.534	1
Chicago	35	39	.473	5 1/2
Minnesota	31	39	.443	7 1/2
Kansas City	31	41	.431	8 1/2
West Division				
Texas	39	35	.527	—
Seattle	37	35	.514	1
Los Angeles	36	38	.486	3
Oakland	33	40	.452	5 1/2
NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
Philadelphia	45	28	.616	—
Atlanta	41	33	.554	4 1/2
New York	35	37	.486	9 1/2
Washington	35	37	.486	9 1/2
Central Division				
St. Louis	40	33	.548	—
Milwaukee	40	34	.541	1/2
Cincinnati	38	36	.514	2 1/2
Pittsburgh	35	37	.486	4 1/2
Chicago	30	42	.417	9 1/2
Houston	27	47	.365	13 1/2
West Division				
San Francisco	39	33	.542	—
Arizona	39	34	.534	1/2
Colorado	36	36	.500	3
Los Angeles	33	41	.446	7
San Diego	30	44	.405	10
Yesterday's Games				
Baltimore 8, Pittsburgh 3				
Colorado 8, Cleveland 7				
L.A. Angels 2, Florida 1				
N.Y. Yankees 5, Cincinnati 3				
Boston 14, San Diego 5				
Atlanta 2, Toronto 0				
Texas 8, Houston 3				
Chicago Cubs 6, Chicago White Sox 3				
Tampa Bay 8, Milwaukee 4				
L.A. Dodgers 4, Detroit 0				
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS				

TSL Sports Complex/Saipan Soccer School Opening

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Players from the various football clubs on Saipan pose with officials and guests during the opening of the Saipan Soccer School.



Century Insurance Corp. president Dave Sablan introduces guests at the opening ceremony for the TSL Sports Complex early this month.



NMASA president Michael White addresses the crowd.



Siblings Enrico, right, and Justin Del Rosario, pose with former Hong Kong football star Leslie George Santos.



Guests and officials do the ceremonial ribbon cutting for the opening of the TSL Sports Complex.



From left, NMASA president Michael White, Saipan Mayor Donald Flores and wife Cecilia, Tan Holdings chair Tan Siu Lin, Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos, and Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan pose for a group photo after the opening ceremony.



Tan Holdings chair Tan Siu Lin, center, and Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos, fourth from right, pose with Chelsea FC Soccer School (Hong Kong) officials.



Guests, officials, players, and coaches attend the opening ceremony.



Chelsea FC Soccer School (Hong Kong) part-owner Raymond Tan, right, introduces the school's officials, who graced the opening of the Saipan Soccer School and conducted clinics on island.



Father Eugene Espeleta blesses the facility.

Venus Williams,
Nadal win
openers at
Wimbledon

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Saipan Tribune Sports

A-Rod sets
up Yankees
win over
Reds

PAGE 25

28 WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 2011

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Big Leaguers off to ASPAC

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Big League All-Stars on Monday received their flight plans to Manila and will compete in the 2011 Asia Pacific Regional Tournament from June 27 to July 2 at the Rizal Memorial Baseball Stadium in the Philippines.



The news is a welcome development for the embattled local Little League program, whose funding woes resulted in the non-participation

of the Junior and Senior all-stars in their respective ASPAC meets in Indonesia and the Philippines, respectively.

The CNMI Major All-Stars are expected to suit up for the

See BIG on Page 26



CNMI Big League All-Star team manager Joe Flores, wearing a blue sling, conducts a meeting with parents and coaches in the Commonwealth Elections Commission Office conference room last Monday to discuss preparations for their trip to Manila, Philippines where they will compete in the 2011 Asia Pacific Regional Tournament.

CNMI cage teams drop opening games



Members of the CNMI boys U15 team pose for a group photo last week before they leave for Palau for the 2011 U15 Micronesian Basketball Tournament.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The CNMI went 0-3 at the start of the 2011 U15 Micronesian Basketball Tournament last Monday at the Palau National Gymnasium.

In the boys division, the Commonwealth's cagers dropped two games in Day 1, while the CNMI cagebells lost their debut.

The Ed Manalili-coached CNMI U15 boys squad was the first to play, battling Guam in the second game of the day. The lack of firepower took its

toll on the CNMI team early, as the beefier Guam squad ran away with a 105-39 victory. The Commonwealth sent only seven players in the boys competition in Palau after three failed to complete the needed documents for the trip.

With a depleted squad, the CNMI fell behind by doubles digits after the opening quarter, 23-12, according to the tournament website. Guam never looked back from thereon to notch its first win.

Jacob Palacios led the CNMI in scoring in their debut, firing 11 points, while Ethan Manalili added eight. Kurtis Silvia paced Guam with 17 points, while

See CNMI on Page 26

Minor loses Junior ITF debut

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



C N M I tennis player Thea Minor faltered in her debut in a Junior ITF event after bowing in the second round of the 2011 Open Junior BNP Paribas of New Caledonia in Noumea last Monday.

Minor was in the main draw of the girls U18 singles and drew a bye in the first round before losing to New Zealand's Danielle Feneridis in the Round

of 32 at the Ligue Caledonienne de Tennis Courts, 6-0, 6-0.

The defeat foiled Minor's bid to become the first female player from the CNMI to gain Junior ITF ranking points

The tournament in New Caledonia is a Grade 5 event that offers 30 Junior ITF ranking points to the champion in singles, 20 for runner-up, 15 for semifinalists, 10 for quarterfinalists, and five for Round of 16 qualifiers. It is the same tournament that gave Ji Hoon Heo ranking points, making him the first CNMI netter to en-

See MINOR on Page 26

Upset in women's doubles A finals



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Marlene Peraja, seen here going for a return in an early tournament this year, teamed up with Lani Bartolome in winning the women's doubles A championship against Hannah Choi and So Young Lee last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The tandem of Marlene Peraja and Lani Bartolome clinched the first championship in the 2011 IT&E Singles/Doubles Badminton Tournament after stunning Hannah Choi and So Young Lee in the women's A doubles finals last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex.

Peraja and Bartolome swept their favored foes, 21-19, 21-18, to become the first

Before the finals, Choi and Lee went undefeated. They swept their round-robin assignments and finished on top of Pool B with their 4-0 record. The Korean duo then advanced to the title match after beating Anna Omori and Michelle Caleon in the semifinals, 21-16, 21-18.

Peraja and Bartolome also took the No. 1 seeding in Pool

A with their 3-1 slate and beat Loyda Ito and Cristy Villaflo in the other semis pairing, 21-16, 21-14, to arrange a title showdown against Choi and Lee.

Meanwhile, the semifinals and finals of the remaining doubles and singles divisions will be played this weekend.

In the women's singles A, the first of the two round-robin competition was completed last week with Hannah Choi

player field with her clean 3-0 mark. Angie Ito is in second place with a 2-1 slate, while Malou Malasarte and Loyda Ito hold 1-2 and 0-3 cards, respectively. After six games, the Top 2 placers in the group will duke it out for the championship this weekend.

In the women's singles B, the semis cast includes Marylyn Montano (4-0), Caleon (3-1), Merlie Tolentino (2-2), and

See UPSET on Page 26



Minor